



ZINNI WINS MEDAL



AUSTRALIAN Vol 8 No 317 — WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1987 \$1.20

SOCCER

● POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 406, BROADWAY, NSW 2007.
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WEEKLY

Registered in Australia Post Office as a newspaper

Eddie says yes to Australia, again.

IT'S BRAZIL AND A VILLA FOR WOLVES

By FRANK COLETTA

EDDIE KRNCVIC is a proud Australian and like any red-blooded footballer has a firm desire to represent his country.

The former Marconi idol who has a record of 33 appearances and 17 goals for the national team has openly stated on recent radio and television interviews, exactly what he told this scribe two years ago when he returned to play for Sydney Croatia — he would love to play for the Socceroos, if and when selected.

But the 27-year-old Anderlecht striker put it into the right perspective, when he stated: "Obviously my club, one of the best in Europe, is not going to release me for games against the likes of Fiji and Taiwan, that's illogical.

"It is up to the Australian Soccer Federation to get in contact with Anderlecht when the national side requires me for duty. That would be against the likes of Israel, New Zealand and probably games against China, if they ever come around."

So what about the likelihood of Eddie Krncevic appearing for the Socceroos against Brazil, Argentina and Saudi Arabia in the 1988 Bicentennial Gold Cup?

"Yes I will play if I am picked and the right things are done by through my club. They have to give their blessing and seeing the competition is in July, the chances are all the stronger because the Belgian League will be over by then."

● Meantime well known television producer Harry Michaels has more than kept his promise to take top of the range players to Wollongong City for next season's National League.

Michaels yesterday confirmed that he had signed former Scottish international striker Alan Brazil and Argentinian World Cup winner Ricardo Villa is likely to follow suit.

● On Monday night at the Hyatt-on-Collins in Melbourne the National Rothmans Medal was decided and Brunswick Juventus' striker and Australian international Andrew Zinni took out the award.

Zinni finished a solitary point ahead of South Melbourne's Paul Wade on 26, then came Sunshine's Youth international Paul Trimboli on 24.

Quite amazing was the fact that only one of the top half dozen came from a Sydney side, that being Apia's front-runner Rod Brown. This despite that four of the five Sydney clubs claimed a spot in the semi-finals, something which doesn't say much for the referee's perception of player performance during a game.

Brown finished sixth, two points adrift of Josip Biskic (Melbourne Croatia) and Steve Blair (South Melbourne) both on 19.

Then followed on 16: Robbie Slater (Sydney Croatia), Robert Hooker (Sydney Olympic), Kevin Hagan (St. George) and Ron Campbell (Preston).

The question remains... where were the likes of Arno Bertogna, Vicente Estavillo and Frank Farina? The mind boggles.

● Yugoslavia are quite deserved Youth champions of the world, their win over West Germany in the final in front of 75,000 at the Santiago National stadium proved their superiority, albeit the final win came 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 scoreline in normal and extra time. Curiously both goals came right at the death, the 84th (Boban) and 87th (Witeczek). Ironically it was the latter that missed the crucial spot-kick and the former who coolly slotted the winner. Yugoslavia's boy wonder from Red Star Belgrade — Robert Prosinecki was voted player of the tournament whilst the Golden Boot for top goalscorer went to Marcel Witeczek — he had some tournament to remember!

In the third place play-off East Germany defeated Chile on penalties also.

BRAZIL SIGNS!

...and
Australia
strikes gold

BY KEITH GILMOUR

BRAZIL has finally signed on the dotted line and will join World champions Argentina, top Asian nation Saudi Arabia and Australia in the Bicentennial Gold Cup.

The series will be played in Australian from July 6/17 1988.

Australian Soccer Federation executive director Brian Emery confirmed the deal to us yesterday.

"The hold-up over Brazil occurred whilst they settled some (of their) internal problems," he said in a faintly ironic tone.

Everyone will be agog to see if Diego Maradona appears. Napoli will not be engaged in the Italian League at that time.

And that would free Maradona's Brazilian team-mate Careca as well.

In addition Mr Emery is actively exploring the possibility of home and away tours featuring South American national teams and leading clubs.

"The first objective must be to secure exposure for our players, because we expect to face the fourth South American national in the next World Cup qualifying round.

"The second is to absorb their skills and coaching techniques.

"It is well known that South American coaches

are remarkably successful right around the world.



Diego Maradona

"If we look at Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay as the three top South American nations, we could be aiming our approaches at Chile, Paraguay, Colombia and Peru.

"It is only a 15 hour flight to Buenos Aires, and that is about the

same time to travel as far as Bahrain," he said.

The interest being taken in South America at this stage will certainly be regarded as timely by such enthusiasts as ASW columnist Johnny Warren, who has been pressing for this for so many years.

● Australia's Youth physiotherapist Charlie Jurisic was in the middle of a couple of interesting stories to come out of the championships in Chile. The news the ASW office received is that Charlie was asked by the eventual champions — Yugoslavia, to stay on as their

physio, of which they had none. Charlie politely declined despite the Yugoslav's offering to pay for expenses in Chile and his flight back. But even more intriguing was the offer from Togo. The Africans said to him that for three month's work they would give him \$12,000! Staggering to say the least, again the offer was respectively declined...

The Olympics

The latest on the Olympic Games qualifying round is that Australia's away match against

Chinese Taipei proceeds on November 15, with the return deferred until February 28.

Assuming of course that Chinese Taipei loses, and similarly Western Samoa loses to New Zealand, these countries would meet in Australia on March 2.

The loser goes home, and the winner would join Australia, New Zealand and Israel in the elimination series.

These will be contested in Australia from March 6, 13 and in New Zealand from March 20/27.

HAJDUK SPLIT TO TOUR

YUGOSLAV First Division side Hajduk Split are almost certain to come to Australia in mid-January.

The Yugoslav League breaks up for the winter from early December until March.

At this stage, it is envisaged Hajduk, who have already agreed to terms, will play four matches in various states.

The promoter is believed to be the National Soccer League.

Hajduk is currently coached by former Bulgarian international Vucov.

Hajduk was the first leading overseas team to tour Australia, having come here back in 1949.

They won in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, defeated Western Australia by huge margins in Perth, and lost in Newcastle.

National coaches Frank Arok and Eddie Thomson will surely relish Hajduk as sparring partners.

Australia face Olympic Games elimination clashes in March against likely opponents Taiwan, New Zealand and Israel.

Sydney Croatia's master coach and sweeper Vedran Rozic played for Hajduk and captained the team for five consecutive years before migrating to Australia two seasons ago.

Volvo is expected to be sponsor for Swedish club Gothenberg's match in Sydney, which is pencilled in for January 11.

JOHN ECONOMOS

The Editor

WHILST various views come from all sorts of quarters concerning the way in which top Australian club Soccer can be improved, a little light dawned at St George Stadium in Sydney the other Wednesday night.

Sydney Croatia and Marconi went at it hammer and tongs in the NSL preliminary semi-final and the public were the winners.

The crowd was of the 4,500 order, which stresses that the need for a natural build-up that runs from week-end to week-end ought to be re-learned.

Time is needed to bring interest to a fever pitch — time to publicise the game to the utmost.

In Australian terms it was a game that was worthy of a 15,000 attendance.

There were pieces of skill that were worth going miles to see.

But paradoxes creep in. These matches are based on the knockout principle, which requires a winner.

Draws don't rate, and that is part of the secret of bringing in the entertainment for the crowds.

There have been days, in the states and the NSL, when clubs put on understrength teams in leading Cup series, and these have frightened past sponsors away.

Championship points are vital, especially where relegation counts, but the Sydney Croatia — Marconi clash illustrates that for so many years Cup games have been undervalued.

And overall the principles of skills and entertaining the fans must be applied more to the competition games.

A leading club official recently pointed out that some well-known coaches have a knack in producing football that brings the public in.

And, on a no names no pack drill basis, he pointed out that too many coaches acted conversely.

A type of play that goes for points - or that supremely ugly phase of "going for an away point" - and does nothing more than bore the attendances with negative play does nothing for Soccer.

Unless this attitude can be conquered there is only one certainty.

And that is that other major sports will continue to move ahead of Soccer.

This is not to take a doom and gloom attitude. There have been some very worthwhile club games this season.

Some clubs and their coaches and players have adopted positive attitudes that have brought the needed thrills.

But the message hasn't gone far enough yet to say that the revolution has come.

-oOo-

IT was extremely pleasing to see the National Soccer League executive director coming forward with some hard-hitting and realistic comments on the requirements for a successful league.

We can claim with modesty that many of the points are ones which we have emphasised over the past 15 months.

And ones, incidentally, that so often we were unreasonably criticised over.

Concerning promotion and relegation, this newspaper has pointed out that this system goes beyond the resources available to make it a success in the Australian context.

The need for licensing clubs has also been stressed — it must come if Soccer is to pick up its act and challenge for a genuine place on the Australian sporting calendar.

Mr Kamasz has recognised the trend of time, which has indicated that there will have to be solutions other than ethnicity.

The first step has already been taken in a couple of cases. It is a combination of ethnicity and wide-spread community support and more will be seen of it.

The contribution of the ethnic clubs to Australian Soccer is immeasurable, but the general public must be invited in.

It was stated that there is an excess of NSL clubs in Melbourne.

This is partly being addressed by the return of Brisbane Lions and Wollongong City, which has the highly desirable effect of taking the game back into two major Australian cities.

On many occasions ASW has stressed the need for viable clubs in all capitals and leading regional cities, the difficult situations however being Newcastle, Canberra and Perth at present.

Regarding a switch of seasons, it is up to the NSL to convincingly prove the viability of the move.

ENTHUSIASTIC BOND WITH PAST STARS

WHEN I attended last week's dinner for David Jack in Sydney I could see evidence that Soccer is still alive and could make real progress.

People came along to honour a guest. I felt I could hear the sound of voices — those of the future as well as the present.

It was as if a polar bear was coming out of hibernation.

People like the Sydney Sun sporting editor Bill Casey came along, and NSW president John Constantine did the honours.

It was a bit disappointing that more of the public weren't there, but it was a great night nevertheless.

The man behind the event was a wee Scotsman named Johnny Thomson.

The game needs people like Johnny, but surely on more occasions the administration of the game could be the initiators.

Another such event was the APIA Old Boys Reunion.

On that occasion Jim Bayutti attended, and his service for the game was well recognised.

In his days there was little or no reward for the performers, but real progress was made.

Then there was the St George dinner for John Warren, another grand occasion for people to gather and applaud a great personality for his services.

Officials seem to get rewards of Order of Australia medals, but John is one of the few players ever to be so honoured. And he deserved it.

My view is that there are new administrators and entrepreneurs on the way.

Joe Prestia is one and he has already proved a point. In a short time he is well on the way to turning APIA into a business proposition.

Another now is Harry Michaels, who is fighting hard for the game he loves.



NSW Soccer Federation president and vice-president of the ASF JOHN CONSTANTINE (right) presents DAVID JACK with a memento on the night.

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An evening on the town with the boys! David Jack's testimonial dinner brought out the real socialites of the Soccer fraternity. From left to right: ASW's editor Keith Gilmour, Sydney Olympic coach Eddie Thomson, APIA coach Rale Rasic, a waiter, Marconi secretary Keith Charles, Herald writer Ray Gatt (obscured) by the Telegraph's John Taylor and Brad Earl of Penrith Press.

Prestia took up the challenge — Michaels is moving ahead with passion and hopefully he will be rewarded.

When Joe Watson was honoured for his great service to Soccer, no-one was jealous.

Is Joe the only great? Victoria and Queensland followed up with presentations but others are still to come.

Many of Australia's Soccer greats got together for a game prior to last year's grand final at Parramatta Stadium.

Three times I asked Peter Wilson, who played for Australia 109 times, to join us.

Why did such a great player refuse the chance?

Shouldn't players like Wilson, John Watkiss, Manfred Schaefer, Ray Richards, Ray Baartz and Col Curran get the recognition which is their due.

There are ex-players around like Leo Baum-

gartner, Ferdo Dunaj, Ron Correy, Cliff van Blerk, Stan Ackerley, Fil Bottalico, Herb Ninaus, Karl Jaros and many others.

They are needed in the game — those who are not already giving a hand.

Imagine how much better it would be if the public could mingle with the great players of the past.

No wonder so many grounds are empty if the pioneers don't come.

Why don't the ordinary Aussies come along?

May I suggest something.

Namely that all clubs put their acts together and recognise past stars.

Give these players and their wives season tickets.

Could the Australian Soccer Federation too do more to recognise these people?

Clubs and associations could conduct reunions.

There are great referees of the past who could be brought in.

Are there enough famous players of the past amongst today's juniors. I am sure that more influence from the top would help this to happen.

Look at them...Jim Fraser, Jim Milisavljevic, Doug Utjesenovic, Alan Marnoch, Jim Mackay, Billy Vojtek, Dave Harding, Branko Buljevic, Adrian Alston, Max Tolson, Gary Manuel, Harry Williams, George Harris, Peter Stone, Frank Micic...and so the list goes on.

Well, Peter Ollerton is a top coach, Atti Abonyi the assistant at St George and Jim Rooney at Sunshine George Cross and Ron Correy the goalkeeper coach with Sydney Croatia.

Manfred Schaefer has been in and out of coaching and Johnny Doyle involved in junior coaching and commenting on the game.

I've tried to tell a story of some people who have helped to make the game. Doesn't it indicate a way in which Soccer could lift its game.



THE RALE RASIC VIEWPOINT

EXCLUSIVE APIA'S SECRET

By Apia's champion
coach — RALE RASIC

THERE is a deep secret behind APIA's 1987 National League success that I haven't told before.

The record clearly shows how our president Joe Prestia got the show on the road.

And how we built a team to capture the title.

But the secret weapon I haven't mentioned anywhere before is — CEDO CIRKOVIC.

As the NSL involves mainly Sydney and Melbourne teams, a Sydney club needs to be right up to date on its interstate opponents.

Cedo is our man. All year he has given up to

date assessments.

I have never been closer to him in the 30 years I have known him.

It is impossible to assess the contribution he made to our performance this year.

But Cedo has been the Footscray JUST coach so often that there is one point I would never raise with him.

Footscray coach Dragoslav Sekularac can be sure that I would never even think of discussing their play with my friend Cedo.

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ANDREW ZINNI WINS ROTHMANS

BY GREG BLAKE

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS speedster Andrew Zinni was named the 1987 National Rothmans Medal winner in a glittering award ceremony at Melbourne's Hyatt on Collins on Monday night.

In the tightest vote count in the three year history of the medal, Zinni scampered home by one vote from South Melbourne's Paul Wade, with young Sunshine George Cross star Paul Trimboli third on 24 votes.

That trio was locked together on 24 votes each when the second last tally for the evening had been counted.

Special guest Joe Marston MBE and the rest of the star-studded audience exploded into sustained applause when



But where is the ball? Fawcner goalkeeper Charlie Kasimis has punched the ball to safety, just ahead of Juve's Andrew Zinni. Photo: LES SHORROCK.

Minister for Immigration Mick Young announced Zinni as winner minutes later.

A stunned and almost speechless Zinni left the pandemonium of the celebrating Juventus

table to accept the prestigious medal, and went on stage to dedicate it to his parents.

Zinni admitted afterwards that he had almost missed the night

altogether, believing it to be the following Monday.

Only a last-minute call from club president Dominic Tenuta had saved the day.

As Soccer room-mates, Zinni and Wade embraced as the former came offstage, with the winner offering his grinning friend consolation for

going so close.

The referees, who vote on the medal, smiled on Melbourne players, with the top five place-getters all coming from south of the Murray.

The highlight of the evening was a tribute to special guest Marston, whose career with Preston North End was relived on

the widescreen video.

Marston started out in the NSW Churches Soccer Football Association, before moving to the former great Leichhardt-Annandale club.

On his return from England he was the star of the Apia-Leichhardt club.

He received two standing ovations which

brought one of Australia's greatest Soccer names to tears.

The top ten on the medal list were Andrew Zinni 27, Paul Wade 26, Paul Trimboli 24, Josip Biscic 19, Steve Blair 19, Rod Brown 17, Ron Campbell, Kevin Hagan, Robbie Hooker and Robbie Slater 16.

A preview of Grand Final fever as...

THE TENSION BUILDS!

By JOHN ECONOMOS

PRESTON lock horns with the 1987 NSL champions Apia-Leichhardt in the preliminary final in Melbourne tonight (Wednesday).

The winner will challenge St George on Sunday at Sydney's Parramatta Stadium in the grand final first leg.

Preston with a home ground advantage appear to have a slight edge on Apia.

It was Preston in fact who put an abrupt end to Apia's unprecedented undefeated streak of 17 matches with a 4-0 hiding in Melbourne in round two.

Apia, still reeling from last Sunday's 2-1 defeat by St George, will be out for full revenge.

Says Apia coach Rale Basic: "There will be changes for the Preston game.

"I only want players with 100 per cent commitment and against St George we had one or two that didn't give me this."

Meanwhile, St George coach Frank Arok is not unduly perturbed which side he will meet on Sunday in the first of the two legged Grand Final matches.

"It goes without saying that we desperately want to win it and win it well," he said.

"Last year we got to the northern Grand Final but went down to Sydney Olympic to miss out on the national final against eventual winners Adelaide City.

"If Preston get into the Grand Final, I'm certain they will have a definite advantage the following week down at Olympic Park.

"Luck will play a big part no matter who St George meet.

"But I am lucky that for Sunday, I will have back both Mike Grbevski and Scott Ollerenshaw after suspension.

"One thing only I can promise.

"St George will go flat out in attack.

"I will be playing with three or four strikers."

Against Preston, St George lost 1-0 in round one, came back with a 3-0 win at home and finished off Preston in the preliminary semi-final at home by a slender, yet convincing 2-1 margin.

Against Apia, the Saints were crushed 1-3 at home when ace striker Rod Brown cracked a hat-trick.

In round two, St George held Apia to a 0-0

semi-finals of the Top Five Series Saints edged out Apia in very wet conditions at St George Stadium.

Key player for Saints will be giant sweeper Steve O'Connor who has done a magnificent job with the youngsters around him.

O'Connor, at the tender age of 34, has suddenly exploded into the best performing cen-

He looks fitter, faster and stronger than ever and is fulfilling the sweeper role splendidly.

O'Connor, for years noted as being the League's big tough hit-man, this season has unveiled himself as a first-class, constructive defender.

His distribution from the back has been outstanding.

His tackling is perfectly timed and he now looks to come away with the ball rather than just burying his attacker in a screaming heap.

Only last Sunday against Apia, O'Connor ventured upfield, controlling the ball with immaculate confidence as he beat two Apia defenders.

Once past halfway, big Steve knocked a beautiful low, defence-splitting through ball to striker Peter Petkovski with the outside of his right boot.

Such a pass would have drawn wild cheers from Brazil's Socrates.

Grand Finals are usually won by key men.

Saints have three such stars in O'Connor, Ollerenshaw and Alan Pottier.

Apia's trump cards loom as skipper and centreback Arno Bertogna and flank midfielders Terry Butler and Peter Tredinnick.

Should Preston make it to Parramatta Stadium, they will be looking to lethal, yet elegant striker, Steve Smith, left-back Zoran Ilioski and acrobatic goalkeeper Phil Trianides.



IF LOOKS COULD KILL!

St George's Steve 'Rocky' O'Connor

draw at Lambert Park in a thriller.

But last Sunday in the

tral defender in the West End National Soccer League.

A former World Cup centreback, O'Connor has greatly helped Arok with his classy form this season.

ILLAWARRA INDOOR

THE Illawarra region is now on the same footing as the State Association following the AISF decision to grant the area "autonomous" status.

More than 1800 players in the region and 297 teams playing on a regular basis indicate the phenomenal growth of the sport in the Wollongong area. In addition the Illawarra Stingers have made more than an adequate debut in the James Hardie NISL.

According to president Joe Brent the move means more local officials led by AISF vice president Terry Pearse, have a direct say in the games destiny in the area.

Brent said other areas to follow Illawarra's footsteps will be Gippsland, Latrobe Valley and Newcastle.



FRENCHVILLE coach Bevan Dingley (left) with the "One Eye" coaches trophy — referee Ron Waters (right) has the "Seeing Eye Dog" award. The father figure is Barry Such.

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team for the World Cup in 1990.

RETIRED AT UNDER 16?

The future of Youth League Soccer is in the balance. At this stage an option is 17 in and 16 out. Surely this proposal is detrimental to Youth League and what it stands for.

Removal of under 16 only moves the problem of bridging the 16-19 gap and does not cure it. In fact it creates a bigger problem at a younger, more immature age. Under 17 youth inclusion is overdue but why must it be at the expense of under 16 players.

Further pressure will be felt by these boys because of the proposed change of eligible birth dates. In fact, 16-year-old boys may be playing against under 18 youths.

Surely the powers that be must realise the problems which will arise with the dominance of age, size and maturity, not to mention the social implications inherent at this period of youth development.

Many of the younger, less mature boys in a vain challenge for Youth League positions against their older, bigger opponents will find themselves without a role in Soccer at Youth League level.

Players kept in the game longer and given time to mature will not only enhance player futures, but will also induce spectator interest and advance our budding international prospects.

The Associations have a big decision to make at the NSWASF Sydney branch meeting on November 7 in considering the future

of our youth — yes, our youth!

Please make sure you think very carefully before you throw away the future of boys who have enjoyed the game and served it well since as young as four years of age.

Negative proposals such as 'we cannot fill teams' and so on will be put forward by inefficient clubs who fail to attract youth because of poor coaching and lack of officials' interest.

In the best interests of successful youth and international prospects these negative, short-sighted proposals must surely be outweighed by the many positive aspects of age continuity.

There is nothing to lose and everything to gain by making a decision which will build our Youth League players into a force which will eventually make Australia a name in world Soccer and this can only be done by maintaining continuity.

CONCERNED (for
over 300 boys) —
NIPPED IN THE BUD

SOCCER POLITICS

AROUND the traps is a continual run of information, very often well sourced, covering possible arrangements for 1988.

THE NSW and Victorian Federations are quoted as wanting all teams within their state borders competing in their own competitions.

Meeting are held to try and influence clubs to move out of the National Soccer League.

In other cases the League states that certain clubs should leave their ranks.

The NSL is caught up in a decadent promotion and relegation system which was wished on it by certain member states of the Australian Soccer Federation.

Progress is inhibited because so often it has to subject its wishes to the ASF's directions, and in any case NSL executive director Steve Kamasz sees the need for the voluntary committee to be replaced by paid, competent commissioners.

Then the Queensland Soccer Federation is un-

happy that Brisbane Lions will be promoted to National League, thus apparently downgrading the state competition.

Queensland has had a few good crowds this

year, but as is well known the major league is played on some very ordinary grounds and most game draw poorly.

And so the roundabout goes on.

URUGUAYAN V. NEW CALEDONIA

THE touring New Caledonia national team will strike stiff opposition when they meet Uruguayan Penrith at Cook Park St Marys tonight (Wednesday).

John Bradley, the former NSL star with Apia-Leichhardt and Blacktown City, will be in charge of the home team pending the appointment of a new coach.

This floodlit encounter kicks off at 8pm, and is certain to produce some really entertaining football.

In Sunday's match the Gabbie Stadium 89th minute goal from Grant Lee took Blacktown City to a 1-1 draw with visitors.

The Demons fielded a mixture of youth and experience in mudbath conditions.

Blacktown City may Russell Dickens and French Consul-General were in attendance, and reception was held after the game.

New Caledonia presented the club with a plaque, and in return the visiting party were made honorary members while in Australia.

SOUTH MELBOURNE PLAYER EXODUS

By JOHN ECONOMOS

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS is on the verge of losing at least five of its star players as disension has besieged the Greek sponsored club.

Long standing goalkeeper Peter Laumets and a striker Charlie Egan plus tough-tackling midfielder Richard Miranda are three to lead the exodus.

Egan lately has fallen out of favour with South supporters and is looking for greener pastures.

Last year's Rothmans Gold Medal winner, right fullback Bobby Russell, is another that will be leaving South Melbourne.

Current Socceroo midfielder Gary McDowall has also requested a transfer and will be leaving the club playing staff.

McDowall has been granted special permission to train with another Victorian club to maintain his fitness for the National team at his own request.

Miranda due to a job promotion as well as a transfer within his Company to New Zealand....

Adding to South's problems for next year is the fact that it seems nobody wants the Presidency.

PREDICTIONS

1=HOME WIN 2=AWAY WIN
X=DRAW

POOLS DIVIDENDS

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1ST \$ 118,384.05

2ND \$ 3,642.60 4TH \$ 16.70

3RD \$ 257.10 5TH \$ 11.85



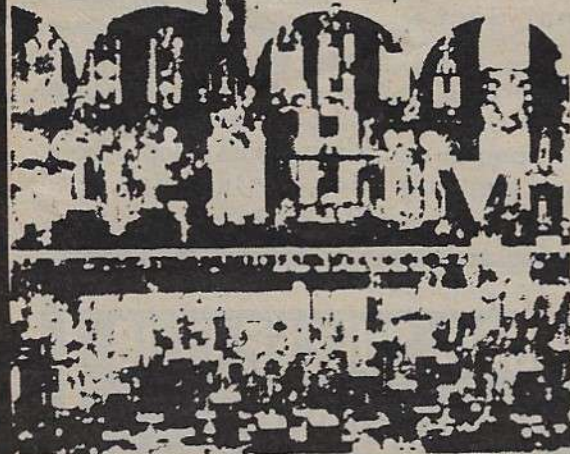
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	MAN UTD.	NOTT'M. F.	4 I
	NEWCASTLE	ARSENAL	5 X
	NORWICH C.	Q. P.R.	6 Z
	PORTSMOUTH	SHEFF. WED	7 X
	TOTTENHAM	WIMBLEDON	8 I
	WATFORD	WEST HAM	9 Z
	ASTON VILLA	READING	10 I
DIVISION 2	BARNLEY	STOKE C.	11 X
	BOURNEMTH	IPSWICH T.	12 Z
	BRADFORD C.	CRYSTAL P.	13 X
	HUDDERSF'LD	MILLWALL	14 I
	LEICESTER	BLACKBURN	15 X
	MIDDLESBRO'	SHREWSBURY	16 Z
	OLDHAM A.	BIRMINGHAM	17 I
	PLYMOUTH A.	HULL C.	18 X
	SHEFF. UTD.	LEEDS U.	19 X
	SWINDON	MAN. CITY	20 X
DIVISION 3	BRENTFORD	BRISTOL R.	21 I
	BRISTOL C.	FULHAM	22 I
	DNCASTER	BURY	23 I
	GRIMSBY T.	BRIGHTON	24 I
	MANSFIELD	BLACKPOOL	25 X
	NOTTS C.	SUNDERLAND	26 Z
	PORT VALE	GILLINGHAM	27 X
	PRESTON	CHESTER	28 I
	WIGAN A.	ROTHERHAM	29 I
	YORK	CHESTERF'LD	30 X
DIVISION 4	BOLTON W.	SWANSEA	31 X
	BURNLEY	STOCKPORT	32 X
	CARDIFF	ROCHDALE	33 I
	CREWE A.	CARLISLE	34 Z
	HARTLEPOOL	SCUNTHORPE	35 X
	HEREFORD	EXETER	36 X
	LEYTON O.	HALIFAX	37 I
	PETERBORO'	TORQUAY	38 Z
* RESERVE MATCHES			
NORTH PREMIER	WREXHAM	SCARBORO'	39
	CAERNARFON	FRICKLEY A.	40
	GAINSBORO'	MORECAMBE	41
	GATESHEAD	RHYL	42
	HYDE	SOUTHPORT	43
SCOTTISH PREMIER	ABERDEEN	CELTIC	44
	DUNDEE UTD.	ST. MIRREN	45
	FALKIRK	HIBERNIAN	46
	HEARTS	DUNDEE	47
	MORTON	DUNFERMLINE	48
SCOTTISH DIVISION 1	RANGERS	MOTHERWELL	49
	AIRDRIE	CLYDEBANK	50
	CLYDE	RAITH	51
	DUMBARTON	HAMILTON	52
	EAST FIFE	PARTICK	53
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	FORFAR	Q. OF SOUTH	54
	KILMARNOCK	MEADOWBANK	55

* ENGLISH DIVISION 4

HEIDELBERG'S WORST SEASON

ASW's Melbourne feature expert GREG BLAKE covers Heidelberg THE NSL YEARS

THE sad demise of Heidelberg United is a blow to Victorian Soccer — of that there can be no doubt.

Subject of course to the outcome of the ASF Tribunal which will sit on the Scott Fraser eligibility case yet again.

In the years spanning 1977-1982 Heidelberg was one of the strongest clubs in the land and it was THE power club of the southern states.

As first Fitzroy United and then Heidelberg, the Greek club maintained a position near the head of the NSL table regularly and its record over that period eclipses that of any other Victorian team.

Only once, in 1981, did another Victorian outfit finish above the Bergers on the League table in the first seven years of NSL competition.

In 1981 South Melbourne surprised everyone by finishing as runners-up to Sydney City, but it was the only time the big spenders from Middle Park got the better of their fierce Greek rivals Heidelberg.

The popular myth surrounding the Hellas-Heidelberg feud is that South Melbourne have always been reckoned as the aristocrats of Melbourne Soccer with the Bergers running a poor second.

In truth Heidelberg has, in over a decade of NSL Soccer, eclipsed Hellas completely on the field — where it counts.

In head-to-head battles it took Hellas four years (until 1980) to even beat its arch-rival in a League game.

Heidelberg's relegation

will see an end to the Melbourne Greek derby games, traditionally the most fiercely fought and biggest crowd pulling games of the season down south.

Granted the fortunes of Heidelberg in recent seasons have been most disappointing.

But even as recently as 1984 the Bergers were within an ace of winning through to the national play-offs after a memorable 4-2 extra time loss to South Melbourne in the Southern Division Grand Final.

The greatest shame of Heidelberg's demise is that it takes with it to the State League one of the rare decent grounds in the NSL.

Whilst the club hasn't hit it off on the park this year, they have gone ahead in leaps and bounds in their development of Olympic Village to the stage where it now ranks behind only Olympic Park and Middle Park as a Soccer venue in Melbourne NSL circles.

The club's major trophies won in NSL competition number just one — the Top Five Cup they grabbed in 1980.

That 1980 Grand Final saw the culmination of four years of frustration for Bergers fans, after all those years of going ever so close to winning League and Cup honours.

It also saw the culmina-

tion of four years of hard work as Heidelberg's best ever combination hit peak form to destroy favoured Sydney City 4-0 in front of over 15,000 screaming fans at Canberra's Bruce Stadium.

The roots of that team were born in the fledgling NSL years when the likes of Pat Bannon, Bob Provan, Jim Tansey, Theo Selemidis, Gary Cole, Kenny Taylor, Andy Bozikas, Jim Campbell and Arthur McMillan all appeared in that very first 1977 NSL season.

They all went on to feature in the 1980 Cup winning squad.

Round 12 1977 is sometimes seen as a watershed in the development of the then Fitzroy United club.

As a Greek outfit Fitzroy had lived in the shadow of the mighty Hellas, and as the first NSL season was progressing it was Hellas who were regarded as the only southern threat.

Fitzroy's form had been, at best, average over the first 11 rounds of the first national season.

Top side Marconi came to Olympic Park for the fateful Round 12 game and gave Fitzroy an horrific clobbering by a then record 8-1.

Rather than demoralise the club, it somehow strengthened their resolve to succeed.

The Greek club came out with all guns blazing to take some 20 points from their last 13 games of the year to finish third on the table.

For the next near decade the Bergers have never even come close to the humiliation of that 8-1 defeat again.

Heidelberg has been a proud NSL representative of Melbourne in the NSL for over a decade, a club of great character with a history of NSL success.

For the record the Heidelberg squad for that 1980 Grand Final was: Jeff Oliver, Arthur McMillan, Theo Selemidis, Pat Bannon, Ken Taylor,

Andy Bozikas, John Yzendoorn, Jim Campbell, Gary Cole, Jamie Paton, Jim Rooney, Jim Tansey, Bob Provan and Jim Williams with the coach Len McKendry.

To all those players — and the coaches — who have graced the Heidelberg colours in the past 11 years all we can say is thanks for the memory.

Soccer is full of hard luck stories and Heidelberg's is one of those.

Three times League runners-up, thrice defeated in Cup finals.

Regardless, their record is an impressive one.

PATIKAS' RETURN

DESPITE stories that Jim Patikas is trying to engineer better terms for himself in Greece, the outstanding Socceroo midfielder definitely has other ideas.

His two year contract with AEK is up in November and there is every likelihood that he will head back home to Sydney.

He told me on the telephone from Athens: "Australia is my home. It is in my blood and it is my future life."

And that is certainly great news for the not so distant future.

It will be greeted by National coach Frank Arok and also Vedran Rozic of Sydney Croatia with a deal of joy.

— KEITH GILMOUR



Two of Heidelberg's guns from this season. At left is Claude Lucchesi and supporting him is midfielder Mike Valentine.

HEIDELBERGERS' NSL RECORD

Year	League	Cup	Top four-five
1977	3rd	semi-finals	**
1978	5th	Qtr-finals	-----
1979	2nd	2nd round	3rd
1980	2nd	runners-up	winners
1981	8th	Qtr-finals	**
1982	4th	runners-up	5th
1983	6th	runners-up	**
1984	2nd	first round	2nd
1985	3rd	2nd round	4th
1986	5th	semi-finals	5th
1987	13th (last)	Qtr-finals	-----

* as Fitzroy United

** no competition held that season

*** NSL Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A
League	290	123	83	84	438	360
Cup	31	18	4	9	54	30
Top four-five	14	4	1	9	24	26
Total NSL games	335	145	88	102	516	416



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THE SAINTS ARE ONE STOP FROM THE PENTHOUSE

By JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE, the side predicted by all experts at the start of the season as definite relegation material, busted their way straight into next Sunday's Grand Final.

Saints defeated the 1987 NSL champions Apia 2-1 on a saturated St George Stadium in the major semi-final and will now meet the winner of tonight's elimination final between Apia or Preston at Parramatta Stadium next Sunday.

Despite the wet conditions, both teams threw themselves into the fray with some fine wet-weather football and both goalkeepers, (Mike Gibson for Saints and Tony Pezzano for Apia) handled the difficult conditions in fine style.

Saints ripped into the lead in the 16th minute when a well measured

corner by midfielder Pedro Ricoy was headed into the Apia net by Craig Moffitt header.

St George had threatened earlier through Andy Koczka in the sixth minute and Alan Pottier in the 13th.

Striker Peter Petkovski had Pezzano fully stretched in the 32nd minute to block yet another danger for the champions.

Apia's much underrated striker Hilton Phillips raced to the byline in the 10th minute but his perfect low cross flashed across the face of the St George goalmouth without a touch from a col-

league.

Apia looked dangerous in the 67th minute as striker Gary Ward was just wide with his overhead kick from just 10 metres out.

The 77th minute however saw Apia balance the books as a Ward cross rifled in from the left found Phillips on the far post. He easily turned Moffitt to unleash a crashing 12 metre drive into the far corner of the St George net.

But five minutes from fulltime Saints hit the winner as teenage substitute striker Zoran Ilic raided down the right flank. With

geometric precision Ilic whipped his cross to the far post where fellow-striker Graeme Fletcher nailed the target with a downward header.

A satisfied Frank Arok, stated in the press-room: "I was against this game being played in such appalling conditions, as I thought of the spectators and the players. I believed Apia's superior physical strength in the wet would have been to their advantage."

"The major difference between the two sides was Ilic's killer touch with that copy-book cross that laid on our second goal."

A disappointed and critical Apia coach, Rale Rasic, reflected: "Some of my players lacked commitment. There will be changes for Wednesday night's match against Preston. I have not criticised referees this year but today he was dreaming."

Best for Apia were Peter Tredinnick, Pezzano, Terry Butler and Phillips, whilst Saints' best servants were Steve O'Connor, Pedro Ricoy, Alan Pottier and Gibson.

ST GEORGE: Gibson: Green, O'Shea, O'Connor; Ricoy, Koczka, Moffitt, Pottier; Petkovski (Ilic 81st), Hagan (Lampropoulos 86th), Fletcher.

APIA: Pezzano: Brown, Bertogna, Yankos, De Marigny; Butler, Katholos (Bozanic 86th), Tredinnick; Phillips, Parison (Zajmi 63rd), Ward.

Referee: D.Voutsinas.

Crowd: 3,400.
Yellow cards: De Marigny, Ilic.

Straight to grand final

BUGSY COULD FRONT AGAIN

By TOM McKAIN

VETERAN Adelaide City captain Buggy Nyskohus will know next month if he will be able to front up for 1988, which will see him turn 38.

He is due to visit a specialist for an operation on a "floating ankle bone".

But the rugged defender is confident he will make it for another year and he is anxious to play in what he hopes will be a rejuvenated team after a disappointing run this season after winning the 1986 title.

However he has another worry apart from the ankle. The timing of the operation is crucial as coach Zoran Matic has called his players back for 1988 training on November 25.

This is to meet the early start for next season's West End competition — January 24.

"I've been told the operation is simple so let's hope I'm ready in time," said Nyskohus.

However the non-smoking, non-drinking athlete has played for most of the season half training because of old "war wounds" and

there seems no doubt he will surface for that "final fling".

Egan tip

SOUTH Melbourne and former Socceroos striker Charlie Egan has been tipped to sign for Preston.

But there were strong rumours in Adelaide that he would move to SA's Hellas.

Big week

THIS will be a big week for Hellas when it comes to players at the opposite ends of the age scale.

Graham Honeyman is about to retire again, and says nothing will bring him back this time.

And 20-year-old whiz-kid Lou Hristodoulou, after another taste of the professionalism overseas, may decide he wants away.

Club officials will be trying to persuade bit players that they are wanted for at least one



BUGSY NYSKOHUS more season.

Amazing

WE were amazed at yet another hearing over the Heidelberg Scott Fraser affair.

Particularly as only last month FIFA yet again sent out letters to controlling bodies pointing out that clubs, Associations or Federations who took civil court action could be expelled from the game.

FIFA again stressed that soccer should be run by a "parliament" of elected officials and not by courts.

And that controlling bodies should insert in their constitutions, if not already there, a clause banning civil action by clubs, controlling bodies or players.

SYDNEY CROATIA BOWS OUT

SYDNEY CROATIA, winners of the Beach Fashions Cup last week, crashed out gallantly from the Top Five Series last Wednesday night at the St George Stadium.

Marconi defeated Sydney Croatia 3-2 after extra time in easily one of the most exciting matches seen this year.

Croatia, who had play-

ed four matches in 10 days, strangely enough showed no signs of fatigue as they battled to hit the lead in the first half and more than held their own in the second.

Marconi's task of winning the sudden-death match was made all the more difficult when referee Chris Bambridge erroneously sent off striker Steve Maxwell in the 81st minute.

Croatia snatched the lead in the 10th minute through attacking midfielder Shane Clinch, following solid lead-up work by Mark Jones.

A hectic series of attempts to scramble the ball into the net by Marconi in the 29th minute saw goalkeeper Greg Woodhouse make three consecutive blocks, the last off Marconi's Ian Gray.

The match developed into a high spirited, fast paced affair as both teams spread the ball across the back and used the full width of the pitch with repeated switches of play.

The two oldest players on the field, Sydney Croatia's dynamic duo Zarko Odzakovic and captain-coach Vedran Rozic, were nothing short of magnificent with their razor-sharp precise passes.

Nine minutes from the

90 minute mark, Marconi finally equalised through speedy striker, Frank Farina.

Seconds after this goal referee Chris Bambridge erroneously sent off substitute Steve Maxwell, following an incident with Sydney Croatia's goalkeeper, Greg Woodhouse.

Maxwell violently refused to 'walk', pleading his innocence. Tommy McCulloch was the real offender.

Five minutes from ordinary fulltime, Marconi's second substitute, Zlatko Nasteviski, put his team ahead with a lovely bending 20 metre free-kick.

Sydney Croatia refusing a defeat, bombarded Marconi till finally in the 87th minute they equalised through international strike-ace, Graham Arnold.

With fulltime the scoreboard reading 2-2, Bambridge ordered extra time.

Both teams threw themselves into the fray, desperately shooting for air-tickets to travel to Melbourne to play Preston in the minor semi-final.

With action aplenty every second, Marconi grabbed victory in the 98th minute when midfielder Tommy McCulloch hit the target with a 25 metre

bomb that had goalkeeper Woodhouse shattered.

Marconi's gallant centre-back skipper, Tony Henderson, stated in the dressing rooms: "It's been a long time coming but we have finally done it. Now it is up to us to finish off Preston as best we can."

A very tired and disappointed Vedran Rozic, lamented: "We tired greatly over the last half hour and thus lost some concentration through sheer fatigue."

"I am very disappointed but I'm pleased we gave it our best."

Stars of the night were Shane Clinch, Rozic, Odzakovic, Henderson, Gomez and Steve Calderan.

This match was the best of the whole NSL season, being a magnificent display of open, fast, intelligent Soccer that gave the customer full value for his dollar.

MARCONI: Catlin: Carter (Maxwell 52nd), Henderson, Calderan, Wheatley: Gomez, McCulloch, Mason (Nasteviski 52nd), Gray: Farina, Lowe.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse: Savor, Vilestra (Krslovic 105th), Rozic, Jennings: Jones, Odzakovic, Rumora (Lamond 89th), Clinch: Slater, Arnold. Referee: C.Bambridge. Crowd: 4,500 approx.

JOHN ECONOMOS



IAN GRAY leaps into the air to clear for Marconi against Preston on the weekend. Watching are from left to right — Steve Gojevic, Craig Mason, Paul Carter and George Slifkas. Photo by Les Shorrock.

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Marconi tire and let Preston Makedonia...

KEEP THE SOUTHERN

PRESTON Makedonia took Melbourne fans on a roller coaster ride of emotions before finally keeping the southern flag flying.

They won 5-3 on penalties after ending extra time at 2-2 in an action-packed minor semi-final against Marconi at Olympic Park.

Leg-weary Marconi led twice, first 1-0 and then 2-1, before Preston equalised in the second half to send the game to extra time.

The Melbourne team dominated the late stages but still tenacious Marconi hung on to take the game down to the wire.

In the end a heart-stopping penalty shootout ended the Sydneysiders' season with Makedonia getting home 5-3 on spot kicks.

For Preston, unlucky losers at St George last week, the win was a tonic as they came off a three match losing streak.

But one had to feel for Marconi. By the end of Sunday's extra time they'd stopped to a walk following another testing two hours against Sydney Croatia just four days beforehand.

Without Maxwell and McCulloch the task had looked beyond them from the start, and yet they came within an ace of ending the final Melbourne challenge for 1987.

Marconi was tired and jaded but dominated early play and continued to look dangerous throughout when they put

Greg Blake reports

together some super end-to-end passing moves.

But the young and strong Melbourne side held sway for the major



JOHN STEWART has just slammed in the final penalty to complete Preston's victory in the semi-final shoot-out with Marconi.

part of the game. It was only disciplined displays from Tony Henderson, Steve Calderan and Paul Carter which kept Marconi in it until the end.

The architects in Preston's impressive display

FLAG FLYING

were Goce Dimovski and Steve Gojevic.

Dimovski, lanky and laconic but ever so skilled and possessed with guile born of experience, and Gojevic, whose game is all about pace and control, together took Marconi to pieces.

Marconi silenced the Melbourne fans early when the erratic talents of Gerry Gomez took him on a determined drive to the touchline before cutting the ball back for Frank Farina to slam home.

The ever-improving George Slifkas almost equalised but for a brave dive at his feet by Rob Cattlin. Likewise at the other end Farina should have scored with an almost free header which slipped tantalisingly wide of the post.

It was left to the best finisher in the NSL in Steve Smith to pull the goal back for Makedonia when Dimovski's run set up the break and Smith took the final pass. He turned on a sixpence and rifled home from 15 metres as the match reached the half hour mark.

Then it was Gomez who scored Marconi's second from a rebound in



MARCONI's CRAIG MASON bears down on PRESTON midfielder STEVE GOJEVIC during the epic minor semi-final at Olympic Park. Viewing proceedings at right is referee Rob Davies. Photo — Les Shorrocks.

the 39th minute.

Farina headed towards goal from a Nastevski corner. The ball bounced off Phil Trianides and Gomez pounced to score.

In the 56th minute Gojevic sent a spearing pass to Dimovski, who beat Wheatley's challenge to level at 2-2.

Ron Campbell, still carrying a savage ankle injury making him doubtful for Wednesday night,

nearly sealed the game 10 minutes from full time when he ran on to McLennan's pass before slicing the ball inches wide of the post.

Into extra time Farina missed an even better chance for Marconi, but what had been something of an epic semi-final was destined to end up the cliffhanger, it eventually did.

Marconi's fateful mis-

sed penalty was their first of five and Nastevski speared his kick off the upright to leave the way clear for Preston to go through to Wednesday night's preliminary final again table-topping APIA-Leichhardt.

The successful penalty takers for Preston were Campbell, Jackson, Ilioski, Opasinis and Stewart.

Gray, Farina and Carbone were successful for

the unfortunate visitors.

PRESTON: Trianides, McLennan, Ilioski, Piculovski (Campbell 107th), Jackson, Gojevic, Stewart, Petrov (Opasinis 80th), Dimovski, Slifkas, Smith.

MARCONI: Catlin, Wheatley, Carter, Calderan, Henderson, Nastevski, Mason (Rizzotto 101st), Gray, Gomez, Farina, Lowe (Carbone 88th).

Referee: R Davies. Crowd: 2,700.

Adelaide Hellas the main course as...

LIONS SHOW THEIR TEETH

AS the celebrations surrounding their return to the NSL begin to subside, Brisbane Lions officials this week are coming to grips with the realisation that they now have less than 90 days to prepare for next year's national competition.

GREG RUSSELL reports on the return to the NSL of Brisbane Lions.

But the wheels within the club are expected to move very quickly this week and I would not be surprised if the club announced its new coach within days. Current coach Gordon Arrowsmith has indicated he does not want the job next season, but some club directors have asked him to reconsider.

Azzurri's Juan Cutillas and QSF Director of Coaching, Bruce Stowell, are among others who have been touted for the position.

Once the coach is decided Lions certainly will instruct him to almost immediately begin to build for next season. Lions expect to retain nearly their entire squad and could strengthen it further by signing top local talent like Frank Mengotti and Martin Kirsopp.

But the club is mindful not to destroy the tremendous spirit which has developed in the team this season, and that spirit was never more evident than last weekend when the Lions went on a rampage to slaughter Adelaide Hellas 4-0 to clinch the NSL promotion series 6-0 on aggregate over the two legs.

With a 2-0 lead from their first trip to Adelaide the previous week, the big danger for the Lions was complacency and over confidence. But there were no signs of that as Lions fought all the way to ensure there was no doubt about their ability to return to the national competition.

Hellas went into the match with Young Soccer Lou Hristodoulou, who showed some fine touches but often was a

lone warrior in a side which crumbled after Lions netted 17 minutes into the game.

Dave Wheeler put away a well placed header after a Jim Morton cross deflected off Graham Honeyman.

The next three Lions goals found the net due much to the assistance of Hellas keeper David Miller who had a game he will want to forget.

In the sixth minute of the second half Miller rose to take a John Ogden corner, but dropped the ball and it fell for the grateful Grant Lightbown to slam into the net. Ten minutes later Miller was involved in a mix-up with one of his defenders and the ball fell for Wheeler to drive home. Russell Stewart drove the final nail into Hellas' coffin with a 30m shot which slipped completely under the hapless Miller.

Throughout the match Hellas had their chances to equalise, with Hristodoulou and Prince in particular being presented with golden opportunities, but the brilliance of 18-year-old Lions keeper Jason Kearton ensured the Brisbane side finished with a clean sheet.

Despite all the con-

troversy and arguing which raged before the two match series, Hellas were sporting losers.

"The scoreboard told the story. Lions were the best team," said Hellas president Frank Kariannidis.

Arrowsmith heaped praise on his young brigade of Kearton, Keith Marsh and Nick Meredith,

but also acknowledged the contribution of the "old heads" including captain Frank Liddell, Russell Stewart, Jim Morton and John Ogden.

"We created a lot more chances in the second half, the boys deserved it," Arrowsmith said.

Although the game was far less physical than the

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Adelaide encounter, Sydney referee Gary Power handed out six yellow cards and sent Hellas coach Peter Jaksa off the bench.

Jaksa reacted by refusing to talk to the Brisbane media, which was not totally unexpected after

he refused to talk a week earlier when he became upset over Chris Bambridge's refereeing performance — a strange reaction considering neither referee was from Brisbane, let alone anything to do with the media.

YOUTH LEAGUE 1988

CAMPBELLTOWN CITY SOCCER CLUB U/13-14-15-16-17

Campbelltown City Soccer Club, the premier club in the Liverpool/Campbelltown/Camden area, invites all soccer players, from u/13 to U/16 for trials.

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SUMMER SOCCER FIZZER

ASW's LES SHORROCK runs the rule over a weekend of Dockerty Cup matches in Melbourne which left the summer Soccer advocates with little if no argument. . .

Has the Soccer public of Melbourne turned its back on the game?

It must be a worry to the VSF that its oldest and most prestigious competition, the Dockerty Cup has attracted so far only a handful of spectators.

On Saturday I went to Middle Park to watch a double-header involving three NSL clubs and Croydon City.

The weather was perfect for Soccer, both for watching and for playing but the crowd was no more than 300 at the most optimistic. And the answer couldn't be found in blaming counter-attractions.

The only other sporting event of any magnitude was the W.S.Cox Plate at Moonee Valley which drew a crowd of 27,000, but then, whilst a lot of Soccer players love a punt, it's ludicrous to believe that the Moonee Valley crowd was made up of disenchanted ex-Soccer fans.

But this is the argument advanced for summer Soccer. Let's play Soccer outside the Aussie Rules and Rugby League seasons and watch the crowds soar, say those who ceaselessly look for some magic formula.

Well, they got their answer on Saturday. The nearest Aussie Rules match was in Tokyo, but the four clubs between them could summon up only about 75 spectators apiece.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS v CROYDON CITY

Brunswick, whilst never looking like running up the big score it did against Fawcner in the previous round, was always in command against a strange-looking Croydon team that blooded several youngsters.

Andrew Zinni's pace as usual posed the Croydon defence a lot of problems, and eventually, in the 20th minute to be precise, Croydon conceded a penalty for handball and Fabio Incantalupo converted easily from the spot.

But the expected goal avalanche never came, as Croydon, coached for this game by Graham French in the absence overseas of Miron Bleiberg, stuck manfully to its task.

Another factor in keeping the score down was the goalkeeping of Corrado Nobile.

Nobile got his chance near the end of the season when first team goalkeeper Keith Waterman broke his leg.

On Saturday's form, Waterman will be struggling to get his place back. Nobile, who is small for a goalkeeper makes up for it in agility and bravery and there were times when he alone stood between Juventus and a mammoth score.

It was a tribute to him, and a testament to Juve's poor finishing that the

second goal came as late as the 77th minute when Joe Palatsides finally beat Nobile.

JUVENTUS: Marama, Durakovic, Lewis, Brown, Belic (Grbac 80th), Cullen (Fabrizio 80th), Incantalupo, Patterson, Zinni, Palatsides, McGrellis
CROYDON CITY: Nobile, Brown, Byrne, Brack, O'Reilly, Luxford (Nemeth 75th), Redmond, O'Shea, Brogan, Russelle.

MELBOURNE CROATIA v SOUTH MELBOURNE

The second game in the double-header should have been a better spectacle than the first, considering the calibre of the teams involved, but it wasn't.

South Melbourne's off-field problems were mirrored in its lacklustre attempt to contain Croatia. The kindest description that could be applied to South's performance would be to say that it looked disinterested in the outcome.

Its season has certainly finished with a whimper and not a bang.

Croatia treated us to a super goal engineered by that will of the whisp, Josip Biskic. His inch-perfect cross found Alan Scott perfectly placed at the far post to head past Peter Laumets.

Twenty minutes into the second half Croatia sealed up the tie with more than a touch of fortune.

Paul Lewis was at least five yards offside when

he received the ball with only Laumets to beat.

But at least the striker finished off in style, chipping very coolly over the advancing Laumets and then running the ball into the unguarded net.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje, Dobson (McIntosh 70th), Davidson, Dunn, Campbell, Milosevic, Wallace, Heys (Humble 75th), Biskic, Scott, Lewis.
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Laumets, Russell, Postecoglou, Blair,

McDowall (Kalogeros 75th), Anzakis, Wade, Crainie, Tasios, Egan, Wright.

Details: Brunswick 2 (Incantalupo pen. Palatsides) b Croydon City 0, Melbourne Croatia 2 (Scott, Lewis) b South Melbourne 0.

DOCKERTY CUP semi-finals will be played at Middle Park on Sunday November 1 as a double-header.

First game, Heidelberg v Footscray at 1.30pm, followed by Brunswick Juventus v Melbourne Croatia.



DOCKERTY CUP action. ASW's photographer Les Shorrock catches Croydon City goalie CORRADO NOBILE collecting a high cross against Brunswick Juventus. Waiting behind is team-mate Tony Redmond and Juve striker Frank McGrellis approaching.

SENIOR COACH

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GEELONG CLUBS 1987 BATTLES

From TONCI PRUSAC

IT was a disappointing year for the majority of Geelong's Soccer clubs as several fought relegation and others struggled to assert themselves only to finish lower than anticipated.

Unfortunately not one team was promoted although Brintons, North Geelong and Northern Suburbs all made desperate bids for promotion only to see the opportunity crumble away.

To add to the woes Hamlyn Rangers and East Geelong were relegated while Bell Park, Geelong and the newly merged Corio-Geelong United had to be content with a mid-table finish.

The two highest placed teams, Hamlyn Rangers and North Geelong, had the honour of representing Geelong in Victorian League Division Two.

After a slow start, losing by large margins in their first two games, North Geelong pulled up their socks to look possible promotion candidates later on in the year, only to be edged out by more consistent opposition.

Hamlyn Rangers on the other hand, struggled to keep up with the rest of the League, eventually suffering relegation.

The Scots will next year join three other teams from "Sleepy Hollow" in Victorian League Division Three.

In the first couple of rounds Bell Park and Geelong both looked like winning the championship, but they struggled later on to finish in the middle of the table along with Corio-Geelong United, who had early season problems with the sacking of their coach after a very short stay.

In Provisional League One, East Geelong had a nail-biting end to the season as the Howard Glover Reserve lads has to

wait tensely to see if they would suffer the drop.

As fate would have it, the last round results didn't favour them and they will have to accept a lower division next year.

Brintons on the other hand had different thoughts. Playing in Provisional League Four, they looked like certain- ties for the title. Due to some rather poor form late in the year, it proved otherwise.

In Amateur League One, Northern Suburbs had a similar story to that of North Geelong. After a poor start they slowly but surely managed to climb the ladder. But two losses in the last two rounds proved critical and ended their dream.

However, if consistency can be acquired, I believe that we will see many promotions in Geelong come October next year.

In a disappointing year, several names of talented players stood out.

North Geelong was best served by Frank Simovic, John Coutts, Robbie Cosic and Wally Stojanoski. Young Steven McAuliffe (a promising player for the future) made his debut for Hamlyn Rangers while Darren Nelson was one of their best players.

Craig Plummer (Geelong), Mick Opperman (Bell Park), Robbie Noggler (Corio-Geelong United), Goran Gajic (Northern Suburbs) and Brintons topscorer, Ashley McIntyre are other faces who will bring a glimmer of hope for Geelong sides in next year's competition.

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THE 1987 DOCKERTY CUP

GEELONG CITY'S JUNIORS

By ROY HAY

WHAT do you do when you have only a few Soccer players in a particular age group spread between six different clubs, some playing two years above their correct age and others with lads up to two years younger?

The answer in Geelong in 1987 was to apply to the Victorian Soccer Federation's Junior League Management Committee for permission to start a combined side, in which lads would play on their club passports for the new team.

This was how Geelong City was created to give the 20 or so under-15 players a chance to develop their talents by playing against the best opposition.

The results have exceeded expectations, with players from the different clubs being moulded into a genuine team which came second on goal difference only to Green Gully Ajax in the North Western A Division of the Victorian Junior Leagues.

Geelong City has applied for a place in the Victorian under-16 Super League next season.

Two of its players, keeper Peter Sorocuk and central defender Michael Spasevski, were selected to play for Victoria in the recent Australian championships. In the Cup, City lost to the eventual finalist, Altona

Gate, in extra-time.

In addition, the under-15s won the Springvale City tournament and were runner-up in the under-16 section of the Mini-Geelong Advertiser Cup at the start of the season.

When the under-15s were formed, several good under-14 players might have found themselves in the same position as their elder colleagues. As a result, an under-14 team was formed under the same conditions and its performance has been equally encouraging.

They began in Western B Division, but after winning early matches by large scores, they were promoted to A Division and came fifth overall.

The team captain, Lupo Stefanovski, was selected for Victoria and the keeper, Zivko Dimovski for the Western Region team for the Victorian championships.

The under-14s won their section of the Mini-Geelong Advertiser Cup and were semi-finalists in the Western Shield.

At the end of the outdoor season, the teams turned to Indoor Soccer and the under-14s are Victorian champions, while the under-15s came runner-up in the under-16 championships, only losing the title in a penalty shoot-out after extra time in the final.

What is more encouraging than the trophies is the improvement in the standard of play of all the players and the way they have combined to form two genuine teams.

For this, coaches Paul Halliday and David Hurdart and goal-keeping coach, Lucky Inturrisi, deserve a great deal of the credit.

JUNIOR ITALIAN CUP

Sponsored by: Prima Furniture. Organised by: Brunswick Juventus Junior Club. Played at: Sumner Park, Brunswick.

Participating clubs: Brunswick United Juventus (13 teams), Fawkner Azzurri (9 teams), Bulleen Veneto (7 teams), North Reservoir (7 teams), Thomastown (7 teams), Essendon City Triestina (6 teams), Sunshine Park (6 teams), Clayton Inter (5 teams), Regent (4 teams), Werribee (4 teams), Forrest Hill (3 teams), Ivanhoe City (1 team), Kew Eagles (1 team), St Marks (1 team), Waverley (1 team), Regent-Nth Reservoir (1 team).

Results up to Sunday October 25

U9: Werribee 1 Sunshine Park 4, Juventus B 0 Bulleen 1, Thomastown 2 Fawkner 1, Juventus A 0 Nth Reservoir 2, Juventus B 1 Werribee 1, Sunshine Park 2 Bulleen 1, Juventus A 1 Fawkner 1, Nth Reservoir 2 Fawkner 0, Juventus B 0 Sunshine Park 4.

U10: Juventus B 1 Essendon 1, Sunshine Park 4 Ivanhoe City 1, Clayton 0 Bulleen 0, Regent 0 Nth Reservoir 2, Bulleen 0 Essendon 3, Thomastown 2 Fawkner 1, Juventus A 1 Fawkner B 1, Juventus A 2 Regent 0, Clayton 1 Forrest Hill 6, Essendon 1 Thomastown 4, Juventus B 0 Bulleen 1, Nth Reservoir 1 Ivanhoe City 0, Fawkner B 0 Sunshine Park 2, Ivanhoe 0 Fawkner B 0, Juventus B 1 Thomastown 0, Fawkner A 3 Essendon 0, Forrest Hill 3 Bulleen 0, Juventus A 0 Nth Reservoir 0, Regent 0 Sunshine Park 3.

U11: Bulleen 0 Regent 3, Essendon 0 Clayton 3, Juventus 3 Regent 0, Fawkner 6 Bulleen 0, Nth Reservoir 1 Werribee 0, Fawkner 3 Regent 3, Nth Reservoir 5 Clayton 1, Essendon 1 Werribee 1.

U12: Essendon 1 Bulleen 0, Thomastown A 3 Nth Reservoir 1, Clayton 0 Sunshine Park 1, Bulleen 3 Thomastown B 0, Juventus 3 Thomastown A 0, Forrest Hill 1 Fawkner 0. Nth

UNDER 13 STATE TEAM — 1987



FRANK JURIC Nunawading City, TAI TRAN Croydon City, GIUSEPPE TORRE East Bentleigh, LOUIS STEFANOZSKI Geelong City, MARK SORRENTINO (Capt) Fawkner, MARIAN TASEVSKI Altona Gate, SPIROS KARNEZIS South Melbourne Hellas, KEVIN MUSCAT Sunshine George Cross, ALEX KIRATZOGLOU Brunswick Utd Juventus, CHRIS KUTLESOVSKI Altona Gate, VINCENT DE LA PLAZA Croydon City, NICK RADECKI Seaford United, MATTHEW BOUW Croydon City, JOE MACINKOVIC Lyndale United, JANI SURIC Melbourne Croatia, DAMIAN STENT SKYE ROVERS. Coach — ALAN ALEXANDER; Manager — NORM WOOD; Trainer — BILL BEVERIDGE.

UNDER 14 STATE TEAM — 1987



ROBERT PUCOVSKI Seaford United, ROBERT SPASEVSKI Preston, LEE DIXON Knox City, ZORAN MARKOVSKI Altona Gate, MICHAEL SPASEVSKI Geelong City, ROBERT STOJCEVSKI Altona Gate, LORI RISTEVSKI Preston, ROCKY CAPUTO Brunswick Utd Juventus, WILLIAM HASTIE Croydon City, SONY SEVEN Holland Park, GARY UPTON Traralgon Olympians, ZLATE MARKOVSKI Altona Gate, SIMON PARROTT Skye Rovers, Danny STRESNJAK Altona Gate, JOE BACAK Melbourne Croatia, PETER SOROCUK Geelong City. Coach — TOM NEWBIGGIN; Manager — Gordon CROSSLEY; Trainer — JOHN BORG.

UNDER 15 STATE TEAM — 1987



FRANK TALIA Knox City, DINO MIHOCIC Melbourne Croatia, SPIROS KOLLEVRIS Sunshine George Cross, ENGLEBERT SCHMIDL Skye Rovers, JASON KOLIBA Sunshine George Cross, CHRISTIAN OOKAAS Berwick City, SPENCER FIELD Croydon City, ROMEO DIMARTINO Thomastown, KRIS TRAJONOVSKI Sunshine George Cross, LOUIS BEKIARIS Knox City, CRAIG LEWIS Frankston Pines, LORENZ Kindter Sunshine Heights, DANIEL McMINIMEE Skye Rovers, VITALE FERRANTE Fawkner, SAMMY OSIGLI Thomastown, ANGELO KARAGEORGIOU Sth Melbourne Hellas.

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**SOCCER'S
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National Soccer League

BLANCO AT MELITA ESTAVILLO AT CANTERBURY!

ALEX VESIC
reviews the
NSW State
Bank League

Raul Blanco is to return to Melita Eagles for 1988 season while Vicente Estavillo, Sydney Olympic's midfield general, is to take up his first coaching position with Canterbury Bankstown (formerly Canterbury Marrickville Olympic).



LES SCHEINFLUG

And while the appointment of Raul Blanco was on the cards for some time, the decision by Estavillo to hang up his boots and turn to coaching came as a surprise.

These are just two of the changes experienced at State League level. It is the aim of this article to inform of the changes and the chances of success at each club.

BLACKTOWN CITY - Les Scheinflug

Before the start of the State Bank League '87, Peter Thorne, the long time club secretary, was jubilant about the fact that the Demons had snared Scheinflug as their coach for the season.

"We have hired one of the best in Australia in Les Scheinflug. However, his appointment with our club was not carried out with immediate success in mind. His three year contract is designed to provide time and space for the coach to create a side which can compete with the best in Australia," said Thorne.

Scheinflug set a scorching pace in the League but faltered during the second part of the season with the Club Championship as well as the second grade Grand Final to add to Blacktown's collection of trophies.

MELITA EAGLES - Raul Blanco

Raul is back in the driving seat at Melita Eagles.

After spending part of the season in 1987 with Uruguayan Penrith with immense success, Raul was the target of a number of the NSL outfits as well as a few from the NSW State Bank League.

Some consideration was given to staying with Uruguayan but the offer to join his ex-club, Melita Eagles, was far too tempting to refuse.

FRESHWATER - Ljubo Gojkovic

Despite some rumours to the contrary it appears certain that Ljubo Gojkovic will retain his position with Warringah Freshwater.

On holiday in Yugoslavia (working holiday - scouting for strikers), Gojkovic is highly regarded amongst the State Bank League coaches. His job at Warringah Freshwater was made difficult indeed with the loss of some six players at the start of last year's competition.

However, he made amends with some great second round performances including the defeat of Canberra at Grahames Reserve.

Dedicated and purposeful, Gojkovic is certainly the epitome of a professional who demands only the best from his charges.

If he retains the 1987 side and with the anticipated addition of some imported striking force, he is certain to go through a far more successful 1988 season.

CANTERBURY - Vicente Estavillo

The shock announcement of retirement by Vicente Estavillo has left a sizeable gap in Sydney Olympic's midfield. His job in 1988 will be to guide the fortunes of Canterbury Bankstown in the NSW State Bank League.

Estavillo was pleased to have picked up a coaching position and has no illusions about his new found duty. He will take up a team that is regarded as one of the wooden spoon candidates for the next season.



Estavillo.

"I prefer to leave football as a player whilst I am still playing well to be highly regarded in Australia. I consider my new job at Canterbury as my greatest challenge. It is easy to take on a team full of established players.

KU-RING-GAI - Allan Bourke

The departure of Dennis Ford from Ku-ring-gai created more than a mere headache for the Chasers.

Their decision to appoint Allan Bourke as the coach for 1988 came as a surprise to those outside the boundaries of the club's hierarchy.

This is not his first coaching position, having previously guided Bankstown, also in the State League.

His first appointment carries some bitter memories with Bankstown being relegated. However, Ku-ring-gai, despite some limited resources, are not the side that needs an introduction to spirited performances despite the lack of depth or finances.

It is this club spirit that Allan Bourke will have to build on looking for success.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN Ilija Takac?

The coaching position at Rockdale Ilinden is still up for grabs. Ilija Takac, after five years of coaching the side, is eager to move.

After a shaky start the club surged forward to take the fifth spot in the League and that was hard evidence of some good work by Takac. However, for a side that is keen to spend its resources on importing quality players fifth spot in the NSW State League is hardly the tonic that pleases.

Therefore consideration has been given lately to finding another leader and names that are being closely looked at are Dennis Hoggart, Alf Stamp, John Stoddart and Ljubo Gojkovic!

NEWCASTLE-AUSTRAL - Willie Gallagher

Newcastle is to have another facelift, this time well in time for the opening of their 1988 campaign.

Newcastle Austral is to take over the ailing ex-NSL outfit in a bid to develop a strong and prosperous football outfit.

And Willie Gallagher is the man who will guide Newcastle Austral's fortunes in 1988.

POLONIA - Slavek Wozniczka

The man who was responsible for getting Polonia its State Bank League status on two occasions will be back in charge after a successful 1987 season at the helm of this progressive outfit from Chopin Park.

Wozniczka, an established first division player from Poland, came to Australia to take charge of Polonia as the side struggled in the NSW State Bank League second division and after nine years in the wilderness the side won its promotion to the State League.

His return to the club in 1987 brought yet another revival for red and whites and State League status.

YUGAL - Dez Marton?

Dez Marton, the man who entertained crowds for many seasons playing with St George, came to Yugal two years ago and his success was immediate. The club was promoted to State League competition but had to wait till 1988 to join the League.

Marton's credentials as a player are well known, his chance to coach the team in this tough State League competition may come after the annual general meeting at Yugal next week.

INTER MONARO - Vic Fernandez

It is back to business at Inter Monaro for Vic Fernandez.

The club is hopeful that its coach will accept terms for 1988 and with the purse opened for some new blood to strengthen the side it is almost certain that the ex-Saint George maestro will pick up the job.

CANBERRA GRIFFINS Augusto Palacios

This is yet to be confirmed, but Augusto Palacios is a good chance to return to the ACT giants for 1988.

URUGUAYAN PENRITH - John Bradley

An offer was made to John Bradley regarding the position of club coach at Penrith but to date he has not accepted the offer. Further discussions will be held before the final decision is made.

Should Uruguayan hold onto the players which performed so well in 1987, then the job of the incoming coach is going to be made easier despite some stiff opposition which looms in 1988.

THOSE STILL IN THE HUNT

A number of coaches are still sitting on the sidelines waiting for their chance to show their wares.

Willie Wallace, Manfred Schaefer, John Stoddart, Alf Stamp, Dennis Hoggart, Casey De Bruin, Glen Fontana, Veselin Vojnovic, Roberto Viera, Domagoj Kapetanovic are just some of the names still ready to take up a position with those in the hunt.

Inter Monaro, Rockdale Ilinden, Wollongong Macedonia, Canberra Griffins, Warringah Freshwater, Yugal and Uruguayan Auburn are still to officially appoint their coach for 1988.

It is therefore quite possible to see Ilija Takac or Roberto Viera pick up Uruguayan Penrith, Kapetanovic or De Bruin take on Wollongong Macedonia and Hoggart or Gojkovic take Rockdale Ilinden.

CHICO GRATEFUL

An interesting story certainly surrounds the name of Chico Vojnovic. He started coaching with Randwick Star some 14 years ago and has gone through various coaching levels before moving to Albury Wodonga.

He was most successful with Albury City, winning a number of premierships. He also led the representative Riverina side, inflicting an unexpected defeat on the U19 Socceroos by 2-1 a couple of years ago.

He returned to Sydney to take on Polonia but left the club following a poor start to the season.

Recently he was given a rare present by some of his charges from Hajduk Club of

Cabramatta. They turned up at his new home at Bass Hill to help reconstruct part of the house - all as a token of their appreciation for what Vojnovic did for his players at Hajduk many years ago.

There is one for the books! How often have you heard players poor some heavy criticism on their former coaches.

"I was in deep trouble financially and needed help to complete my home. My eternal gratitude must go to these men. Jimmy Grubisic, Vinko Peric, Steve Serdar and Bozo Radovan are amongst those who will have the gratitude of my family for the help provided. It was the best present in my coaching career," said Vojnovic last week.

YUGAL SOCCER CLUB

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Who will be players player of the year?

THE players' choice for player of the year. Is there any individual recognition valued as highly by the players themselves than one awarded by their peers?

GREG BLAKE Surveys some top Melbourne players

Being acknowledged as the most valuable, the best and usually the fairest in the game by the men who play the game is an accomplishment

indeed.

To be selected as the player's player of the year is the highest tribute anyone can pay to an individual for his efforts.

In 1987 there are probably dozens of names in line to take that honour. A poll of a cross section of top Melbourne players re-

flects the openness of the field.

On the basis of selections from one player from each of the Melbourne NSL outfits anyone of 19 of their teammates or opponents are in the running.

The favourites should be Rod Brown, Frank Farina, Steve Jackson, Jean-Paul de Marigny, Robbie Slater, Vicente Estavillo and Ron Campbell.

Here's the way the Melbourne stars see the 1987 player's player of the year.

PETER TSOLAKIS (Heidelberg): "Rod Brown and Frank Farina have to be in contention because they've scored so many goals between them. Zarko Odzakovic just stands out because he's a class above everyone else and Ron Campbell's workrate and overall performance has lifted Preston this year."

"For mine, Wally Savor is the best marker in the country and as far as the goalkeepers are concerned, Phil Triandides has done really well."

GRAHAM HEYS (Melbourne Croatia): "The first guy I'd pick would be Arno Bertogna — and not because he's an old mate of mine."

"He's a very important part of a very successful side who are strong defensively and if I had to pick one from the back four, Arno's my choice."



FRANK FARINA

"From Melbourne, Steve Smith has to be a candidate for his sheer consistency when playing for Preston and the same can be said of Kevin Hagan from St George."

"Others I'd have to mention would be Ron Campbell and Frank Farina, whilst a number of others had great starts to the year and then fell away."

PAUL WADE (South Melbourne Hellas): "Preston's Steve Jackson isn't a flashy player

but he certainly does his job and that's been proved by his club's good form."

"Jean-Paul de Marigny is the player I'd look to from the team that's won the championship."

"His defensive qualities are very good and it's amazing how he also manages to get forward and score as he does."

"Vicente Estavillo — at least on the strength of the TV highlights I've seen — also looks a fine player."

JEFF FAULKNER (Sunshine George Cross): "It really is quite difficult to pick from because there are so many fine players about."

"It's hard to select from TV highlights so going on games played against us, I'd have to mention Frank Farina."

"When we've played against him, he really impressed me and he'd be in any team of mine straightaway."

"I quite rate Jean-Paul de Marigny as a player. He had a very good game against us in Sydney."

"He is a defensively sound player and some of the runs he makes into the box to the far post are unbelievable."

"Robbie Dunn is big and skilled for his size, indeed he really surprises me with his skill."

"He's been very consistent this year for Melbourne Croatia when I've seen him."



VICENTE ESTAVILLO (left) and TOM McCULLOCH (right)... contenders.

KEN MURPHY (Footscray JUST): "Steve O'Connor of St George is my first pick simply because I've played against St George three times this season and every time he's been outstanding."

"I think the move to Sydney Croatia has done Robbie Slater well."

"He's a very exciting player to watch and he has fitted in well with his new club."

"I'll also mention our goalkeeper Zoran Nikitovic who, for me, is as good as any goalkeeper in the country."

STEVE SMITH (Preston Makedonia): "I'd have to say my teammate Steve Jackson simply because he's been far and away the best player I've seen all season."

"Rod Brown has got to be in the running because of all the goals he's scored and Paul Wade, even though I haven't seen that much of him this year, is always a player who impresses me."

SCOTT PATTERSON (Brunswick Juventus): "Robbie Slater impressed me, especially over the first half of the year, as did Rod Brown."

"South Melbourne's Steve Blair is a very under-rated player. He's not dirty but he tackles hard and wins everything in the air."

"Peter Tsolakis of Heidelberg is a little bit patchy but he's certainly an eye-catcher and Vicente Estavillo has impressed me as being a very good player."



ROBBIE SLATER (left) and JEAN PAUL de MARIGNY (right)... contenders.

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Sunday 4.30pm

Les Murray presents a complete coverage of the most important match of the day, with expert commentators Mike Hill and Johnny Warren calling all the action.

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Monday 8.30pm

A comprehensive review of Sunday's West End Soccer League matches. You'll see highlights, interviews, and get the real stories behind the results from Andrew Paschalidis and Kyle Patterson.



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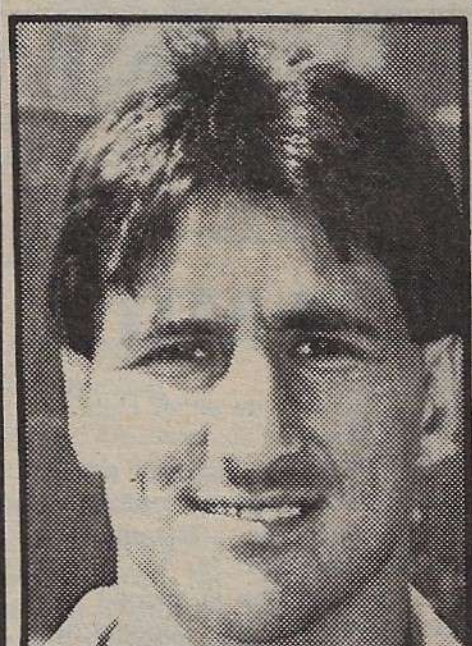
**OLYMPIC PARK
Kick Off 7.30 PM
APIA-LEICHHARDT**



versus



PRESTON MAKEDONIA



CHARLIE YANKOS



PETER TREDINNICK



RALE RASIC



ERNIE MERRICK



STEVE GOJEVIC

WEST END NSL GRAND FINAL



**This Sunday Nov. 1
PARRAMATTA STADIUM
Kick Off 2.30 PM**

ST GEORGE

versus

APIA or PRESTON



Saints' keeper MIKE GIBSON at right

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SYDNEY OLYMPIC vs To be decided Wed night
(Northern Div Winners) (Southern Div winners)

If Preston wins the preliminary final, a second leg of the grand final will be played at Olympic Park, Melbourne on Sunday November 8 at 2.30 p.m.

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Springboard to Europe

BRISBANE Lions may be forced to abandoned any thoughts of commencing pre-season training early.

Nearly half the club's current pre-season squad will be away for much of the off-season.

And two others have knee injuries which may prevent them beginning rigorous work for several more months.

Those heading overseas include Jim Morton, Bob McSkimming, Dave Wheeler and Grant Lightbown, while Peter McClurg is moving to Adelaide.

And Alan Niven and Richard Bassingthwaite are battling back from knee injuries.

Morton is heading back to Scotland early next month and his return at this stage is uncertain. He could stay in Scotland if he clinches a contract with a club, and already a number have shown interest.

McSkimming also is returning to Scotland, only for a holiday, but a three-

month one, starting next month.

Wheeler is going back to England for a one-month holiday while Lightbown, signed from New Zealand this year, has business commit-

ments that will keep him occupied in Auckland during the off-season.

McClurg has accepted an optometry position in Adelaide.

Lions were hoping to bring their players back in

late December, but now probably will be unable to start training until January.

The club is now looking to utilise specialist fitness trainers for an intense

three-week training stint in January.

"Sometimes I think our pre-season is too long anyway. Most European clubs get their players in only a month before the start of the new season," said Lions secretary Lawrence Oudendyk.

"We will have only a minimum time so quality of training will be important. In some cases it might be up to a few players to train themselves before they get back.

"Obviously if they don't then they will be behind when they return and it could cost them their position."



TOM MCGREGOR of Lions.

LIONS GET ITCHY FEET

ARROWSMITH'S ANGRY PLAYER REACTION

BRISBANE Lions coach Gordon Arrowsmith had announced he will not be with the club next season.

Despite the success of this season, which included taking the Richlands Club to a XXXX League Premiership grand final double and into the NSL promotion play offs, Arrowsmith last week advised Lions directors not to consider him for next season.

And in a parting backhander, Arrowsmith gave his reason as: "I am not overly happy with the way some things have happened at the club this year."

While that broadside left club directors stunned, it is understood Arrowsmith's stance was sparked by reports that several directors had shown interest in re-signing former Lions players Danny Wright and John Stewart, who had indicated that they wanted to return to Richlands.

"And decisions made on what players the club brings in for next year should be made by the coach," Arrowsmith said.

"And it's wrong to speculate because no-one knows who the coach will be."

Arrowsmith undoubtedly had the numbers on the Lions board to get the coaching job next season if he wanted it. But his latest stance has certainly eroded that support.

Club Secretary Lawrence Oudendyk said the board now would consider who was available to coach the team and would seek out a new coach as soon as possible.

Arrowsmith came back to Lions this year as a replacement for Col Bennett, who resigned because of work commitments. It was a surprise appointment as the club had replaced Arrowsmith with Bennett 18 months earlier.

While several names had been connected with the Lions job next year, Arrowsmith was considered a warming favourite, particularly after he guided Lions to an emphatic 2-0 win over West Adelaide in the opening NSL promotion series game at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Arrowsmith was proud of his team's efforts and stood up for his players amid the speculation of new signings.

"I would like to stick up for the players because to me, these players are the one who should be retained for next season," Arrowsmith said.

"Admittedly, we have struggled a bit in the local league but they all showed how good they were in Adelaide.

"These blokes are busting their guts for them, yet they (the directors) are talking about getting others in."

While Arrowsmith's attitude is noble, it also ignores reality. The present Lions staff are committed and have a tremendous team spirit, but is nowhere near strong enough to compete successfully in the National League.

And the last thing the club wants is to return to the NSL and struggle.



LAWRENCE OUDENDYK

KEEPING IT IN THE

BRISBANE Lions intend to push ahead with a complaint over the "family affair" appointment of a linesman in the opening NSL promotion series game with Adelaide Hellas.

Lions were stunned when only three hours before the kick-off they discovered one of the appointed linesmen, John Miller, was the father of Adelaide goalkeeper David Miller.

Lions are not complaining about Miller's performance on the line, in fact they believe he had a faultless game, but club secretary Lawrence Oudendyk wants to highlight the appointment to ensure the situation does not arise again.

"We intend going through with our complaint to ensure the situation is not repeated in the future," Oudendyk said.

"We have no complaints at all about the match officials in Adelaide, but those responsible for the appointments

left themselves wide open for a controversy."

"NSL Manager Peter Russell admitted afterwards that he was not aware of the relationship between the Millers.

"We only knew one of his sons (Colin) who plays for Adelaide City, so we thought there would be no problem. Adelaide Hellas did not bring it to our attention and neither did the South Australian Federation," Russell said.

But Russell said he considered it impossible to prevent a recurrence.

"We would have to scrutinise every club's playing list and then the referees' available," he said.

"The only way to stop it in the future is if the matter was brought to our

FAMILY

attention by either club involved."

Russell said any action also could be unfair to John Miller. "It makes it pretty hard for Mr Miller because he is a good referee and this suggest he can't act in any games for the National League in Adelaide," he said.

But Lions were bitter that while Miller's family involvement was common knowledge in Adelaide, no-one said anything prior to the game. Oudendyk believes the NSL should have known the keeper and the linesman were related.

"We found out about it, why couldn't they (the NSL)?," Oudendyk asked.

"And surely the South Australian Referees' Federation should have said something about it."

PROMOTION COMES TO BRISBANE'S CROATIA

AFTER three years spent lounging near the bottom of the Second Division, Croatia finally rejoined the premier competition in Queensland Soccer, the XXXX League.

After barely avoiding relegation to the Third Division in 1986, and although the Reserves won the Premiership-Championship double, it was apparent that the club needed a change in playing and coaching staff.

The injection of funds by the club's major sponsors, CSR Gyprock, provided Croatia with the opportunity to get some quality players and aim to win through to the XXXX League.

As a player, coach Zeljko Bambic excelled with the Zagreb-based Croatian team "Lokomotiva", and began his coaching career at Croatia (then Sunnyside) in 1975, and took the team from Third to Second Division.

He also coached at Croatia in 1979-80, and St Anthony's in 1982, before taking on this year's appointment and gaining promotion.

The only first squad players from last year's abysmal season to remain at the club were the experienced National League campaigner Joe Cairney, the hard running Dean Morgan and Croatia's midfield maestro Mick Gerritsen.

Youngsters Tomislav Novack, Tony Bailo, Joe Stipanovic and Guido Moltoni were added to the first team squad from last year's successful reserves.

Reliable reserve team goalkeeper Mladen Leko was on hand as deputy to the colourful former National League keeper Brett Beves, who, after

much wooing, joined Croatia from Juventus Trident.

This year also saw the return to the club of the experienced trio of Mark Atmore, Steve Perkovic and Damir Ivica.

Another welcome addition to the team was that of a virtually unknown 21-year-old Fifth Division player.

Chilean by nationality, Daniel Castello proved an absolute sensation as sweeper where, more often than not, he was quite brilliant.

Former Brisbane City National League player George Caird joined work colleague Mark Atmore to make up the squad for the first half of the season.

John Russell was brought out from Scotland to replace the injury prone Steve Perkovic, who spent the latter half of the season in reserves.

The scenes of jubila-

tion when the premiership was secured with a 1-0 victory over Mitchelton in the final round overshadow some of the other achievements throughout the year.

The results include memorable victories over XXXX League clubs Rochdale Rovers (5-0), Redlands United (1st round Ampol Cup, 3-2), Gold Coast Federation (2nd round Ampol Cup, 1-0) a draw with Olympic United (3-3) and a creditable performance against then XXXX League pacesetters North Star (qtr-final Ampol Cup, 0-2).

It was not only the team that enjoyed success but individuals as well; Mick Gerritsen and Brett Beves were selected in a Second Division representative team.

Of course the major rewards for the season's efforts have been the Premiership and a victory on penalties in the Presidents Cup.

AUSTRALIAN \$1.20
SOCCER
WEEKLY

is published every Wednesday by Foreign Language Publications Pty. Ltd.
(A company incorporated in New South Wales)
1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037.

DISTRIBUTION:

NSW/ACT: Mirror Australian Telegraph Publication, 2 Holt St, Sydney 2010. Tel (02) 288 3000. **QUEENSLAND:** Daily & Sunday Sun Newspapers, Box 222 GPO, Brisbane 4000. Tel (07) 753 3333. **VICTORIA:** New Country Pty. Ltd. 220-228 Stanley St, West Melbourne 3003. Tel (03) 329 8944. **TASMANIA:** The Mercury, 93 Macquarie St, Hobart 7000. Tel (003) 300 622. **SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** The News, 112/116 North Terrace, Adelaide 5000. Tel (08) 51 0351. **WESTERN AUSTRALIA:** West Australian Newspapers Ltd, 125 St George Terrace, Perth 6000. Tel (09) 321 0161.

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POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 406, Broadway, NSW 2007

Telephone: (02) 660 2033 and 660 7538

Fax: 02 692 0649

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VICTORIAN OFFICE: 220-228 Stanley Street, West Melbourne 3003.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OFFICE: 143 Henley Beach Road, Mile End 5031.

Telephone: (08) 352 2708

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CAN IT BE SAVED?

By BILL TURNER

MANY long-time Soccer players from the district and supporters will recognise the tree in the accompanying photograph. It is the famous peppercorn tree that graced the entrance end of Wallsend Crystal Palace Soccer ground in Newcastle.

But can it be saved now that the ground has been sold?

The tree in the latter years was actually only a few yards behind the goals.

Many a ball was belted into its branches as would-be sharpshooters lofted their kicks around or over the goals.

Even some of the greats of past eras did not fail to bend a branch or two. Reg Date, Alf Quill, Jack Drinkwater, Frank Parsons, Bruce Morrow, Alan Johns and Ray Baartz are just a few who come readily to mind.

As a referee how well I remember having to stop a game between Wallsend and Cessnock, when all three balls went out of bounds.

The first went over the fence into the storm water drain, the second suf-

fered a similar fate barely a minute later, while the third lodged itself (with some help) high in the peppercorn tree.

The ball boys really earned their money that day.

The tree, along with a row of others, was planted in 1928. They were brought from the Capewell and Taylor nursery in Wallsend.

But of all the trees the peppercorn tree proved to be the most stubborn in its determination to flourish.

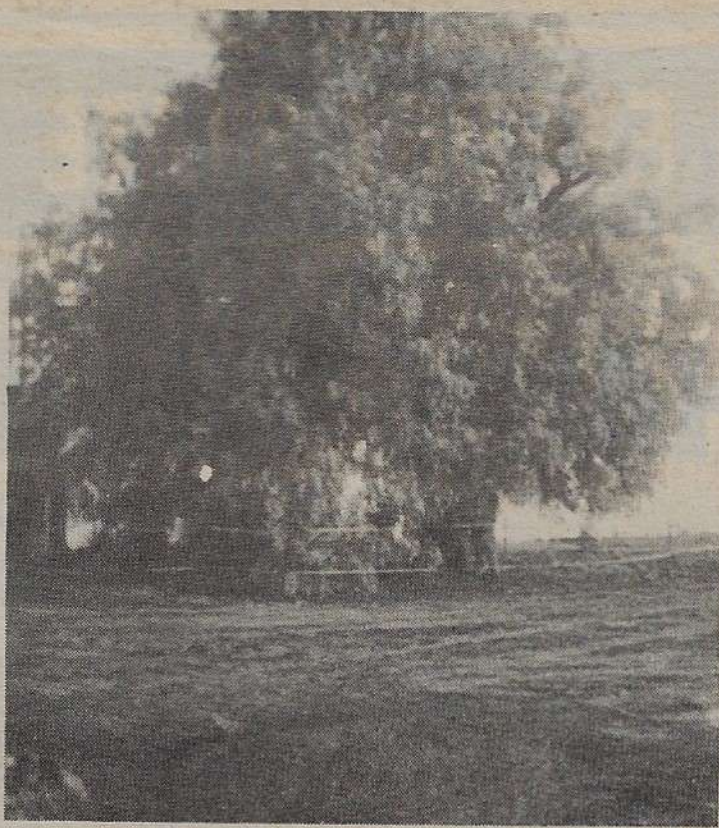
As it grew so did its popularity increase. Under its branches could be found on any Saturday or Sunday, some of the greatest players, referees, linesmen, administrators, commentators, advisers and coaches ever to grace an Australian Soccer ground.

Well, that is, if you were to take notice of what they said and the advice they gave during the course of a match.

Everyone was an expert once they stood under that tree. Perhaps the leaves had some magical powers that pervaded the souls of men to enhance their knowledge and abilities.

Maybe some men thought that Crystal Palace was an updated version of the Garden of Eden and that the peppercorn tree was the "Tree of Knowledge" growing out of the "Fount of all Wisdom".

Often when refereeing I moved to the goal line and signalled a corner kick to be taken, the magnitude of advice coming from the vicinity of the peppercorn tree always had the strength to keep



*"Developers spare that tree,
touch not a single leaf,
for since my youth
I've seen it grow,
its loss would bring me grief."*

— with apologies to George Pope Morris.

me humble.

From beneath that tree, I, and many other referees have had fists, programmes, newspapers, a branch or two, an occasional 10 pound note or later \$20 notes, shaken at us.

And talking about money, thousands of pounds and dollars changed hands over the years. If you wanted a bet, that was the place to go. There appeared to always be someone ready to cover a wager.

Today the tree remains, but one can only conjecture for how long.

Visiting the site, soon to be developed by New World, I asked some of the locals what was the latest on the tree and they told me that a Melbourne

tree surgeon had tendered \$25,000 to move it to another location. Even at that price he could not guarantee success.

It could be, that soon the peppercorn tree will only be a memory and that photographs be the nearest thing to reality we will have.

It's even harder to watch and experience the death throes of the famous Crystal Palace ground, which had an atmosphere that had to be experienced to be believed.

No other ground had that atmosphere in Northern NSW football.

Its only rival was perhaps the old Lambert Park in Leichhardt, particularly when Wallsend was the visiting team.

"PLAY AT HOME" SAYS CROATIA

ILLAWARRA administrators should make one major change to the format of the Ampol Cup series if it is staged again next season.

They produced a major controversy by not allowing South Coast Croatia to play their leg of the final against Deakin Croatia on their home ground.

While Deakin had the advantage of playing at their ground in the first leg, South Coast were told they had to play at Memorial Park, Corrimal's home base.

Croatia players were upset at this edict and at one stage were prepared to boycott the second leg.

Club secretary Ivan Spanicek confirmed that it took a lot of talking to get the players on the field "under protest."

Spanicek said the strange thing was that his committee agreed with the players. "We felt it was unfair and had previously tried to have the venue switched," he said.

"The ISA told us when the series was being planned Memorial Park was chosen as the venue for the Illawarra leg of the final.

"We thought it wrong that Corrimal club should benefit financially through our success when they didn't even qualify for the Ampol Cup.

Croatia won the Cup 5-4 on aggregate, completing a fairy tale season for the club.

After the Ampol Cup final, player-coach Neil Williams said he isn't sure what he will be doing next season.

The club want him to stay on but he might decide to have a year away from the game after recently becoming a father for the first time.

Williams said he still has a knee injury and it has been a long, hard season for him and the players.

ILLAWARRA

with
PHIL MURPHY

ILLAWARRA COULD BENEFIT IN 1989

SOME Illawarra administrators would lick their lips at the prospect of having Fairy Meadow Italia and Wollongong Macedonia back in the Illawarra Soccer Federation fold for the start of 1989 and that might just happen.

There is every possibility that the two clubs will return to a super Premier League competition if they fail to make an impression in Sydney next season.

Factions within both clubs actually advocated a move back to the local league for the start of 1988.

These people have been defeated for the time being.

They argued that it will be harder to lift enthusiasm next season, some players having indicated they are tired of the grind of playing in Sydney every second week.

It would also be a lot cheaper to operate a club in Illawarra and there is the added advantage of being more successful.

If Italia and Macedonia returned to the ISA im-

mediately they would dominate the Premier League competition.

The official stand from both clubs is that they have no thoughts of dropping out of their Sydney competitions.

Unofficially, the factions seeking a change will get their way in 12 months time unless one of the clubs has some major success in the meantime.

From a district viewpoint, it would mean a far more attractive competition of 12 clubs and the BHP Wolves would appreciate not having so many Soccer matches being played in opposition to theirs.

It is a prospect Premier clubs should give plenty of thought to next season — two new clubs drastically change the relegation situation.

MACEDONIA SHARES KELLY PARK HOME

WOLLONGONG Macedonia have moved their home ground from Berkeley Sportsground after nine seasons and signed a three-year rental agreement to share Kelly Park with Coniston Macedonia.

Secretary Bob Kezovski said the move has nothing to do with the controversy which flared towards the end of the season between his club and Berkeley Sports and Social Club.

The licensed club was critical of Macedonia officials after they postponed a home game against Rockdale. General opinion was that the ground was perfectly fit for play.

Originally Soccer officials laid the blame for the decision on the directors of the club.

This brought an outcry from club secretary Neil Cooper and his directors and relations became strained between the two bodies.

Kezovski said his committee had decided on a move from Berkeley before the controversy came about.

"We were unhappy at having to seek other venues for home grounds when the Berkeley Soccer team or rugby league team were playing on the same day as us," he said.

"This happened a number of times last season and caused us plenty of problems."

Kezovski said the licensed club have made it clear to them the two Berkeley teams would again have first preference to the ground next year.

He said his club needs to have stability and sharing Kelly Park with Coniston will provide this.

"We are both very ambitious and I am sure we will get on very well," Kezovski said. "Coniston want to get back in the ISA Premier League and we aim to consolidate our League spot."

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PANAGOPOULOS BROS.

GAFFNEY CHASES PROMOTION

FAIRY Meadow Italia have re-signed coach Larry Gaffney for next season and officials are confident he can take the team back into the State League.

In his first season as coach, Gaffney built a solid senior squad and they were runners-up to the powerful Polonia outfit in Second Division.

Gaffney said his first job will be to retain the players who did so well for him this year.

He said he was concerned that the club might lose utility player Larry Beringer and striker Barney King.

"I need to have them both back next season if we are to be a championship threat," Gaffney said.

"Beringer is of great value as he can play in the defence or midfield and scored a few goals

for us this year.

"King was assistant coach and leading scorer in first grade."

Gaffney said his three key defenders — Paul Mears, Darren Galway and Jamie Dummett — have indicated they will stay on.

Former Unanderra players, Mears and Galway did a great job for Italia in the centre of the defence with Dummett at right fullback.

"I need a specialised left fullback to give us the best defence in the league," Gaffney said.

"With Polonia and Yugal having been promoted I feel the league will be a lot easier to win in 1988, particularly as our

players have the benefit of a season together.

"It will be interesting to see if Kingsford come back as strong after spending so much money on their team this year and missing out on promotion."

The club will go into 1988 with a new look administration.

Former secretary Walter Chichkan dropped out at the start of this year and president Frank Saladino has said he won't seek the job next season.

They were the men who steered Fairy Meadow through their successful seasons in Illawarra and up to the State League in 1985.



Fairy Meadow midfielder Dominic Cario effects a sliding tackle on an Avala opponent. Fairy Meadow have re-appointed Larry Gaffney coach for next season. —Picture by courtesy Illawarra Mercury.



WA EMU EXPORT STATE SOCCER LEAGUE



WA CAN THANK THEIR STARS

By DAVID ANDREWS

WA's attempt to get into the National League has failed — at least for 1988.

What's more they shouldn't hold their breath that a different story will come along for 1989.

In fact WA and the connections that tried so hard to break into this so-called exclusive club should thank their lucky stars that the attempt has failed.

For years there have been many in WA who had visions of competing in a National League and demonstrating that the West can be successful at that level.

But today one has to

question the value of the National League and whether membership is worth the effort.

Currently the National League is a staggering white elephant that continues to feed on its own continuing failure.

Soccer prides itself that more people play the game than any other sport.

But it is clear that it attracts far fewer spectators than other high profile popular sports.

The reason is not hard to find.

Soccer in Australia makes a serious attempt to appeal to narrow ethnic communities while ignoring the vast bulk of the Australian

public.

It is impossible to sell a Macedonia game to Italian, Greek, Polish or British fans let alone the general Australian public.

Only Macedonians will follow such a club.

Therefore, that club needs a continuation of migration or a natural population increase to maintain or expand their interests.

Neither is happening, with migration having fallen away dramatically, while the children of the original migrants have not taken up their ethnic background or Soccer with the intensity expected in earlier years.

In addition the social requirement of many migrants to congregate in set communities is disappearing fast.

In Perth it is well known that more Italians watch West Perth play Australian rules than watch Soccer.

I daresay that trend is common throughout Australia with the various football codes.

To maintain strict ethnic Soccer clubs can only lead to a slow death of the game, despite their historic contribution to the sport.

To those who disagree, think back to the 50's 60's and 70's and

remember how the game attracted thousands to the grounds.

Is it worthwhile, then, pouring millions of dollars into a competition such as the National League that attracts about 2000 a game?

Is the sponsor getting his value?

It doesn't take a genius to realise that with dwindling crowds the sponsors will eventually call off leaving the hard core supporter with the task of picking up the tab to make the game work.

And in my continuous media contacts for over 30 years covering virtually all media, including powerful commercial and ABC television executives, have told me they are not prepared to become involved in ethnic club support to any extent, either by way of televising or sports news.

They say that they will not be put in a position of having to favour one particular group over another.

Each year less and less people are called on to pay more and more to keep clubs solvent.

The future of sport in Australia is on the national scene.

Australian rules has demonstrated that effectively, cricket couldn't survive without the Sheffield Shield, the breeding ground of international cricketers, while basketball, in all cities but Sydney, has

become the big sporting success story of the 80's.

In Perth more people watch one game of basketball than attend the six State League Soccer matches each weekend.

Add to these major sports the growing importance of baseball in the national scene, while even waterpolo has gone national.

Hockey is having a look at the prospect of a national competition.

In the meantime Soccer plays around the edges with the National league concept.

The Australian Soccer Federation has a nerve to call its current National Soccer League national!

The fact one team from Adelaide has been part of the competition does little to dispel the notion that the NSL is the plaything of Sydney and Melbourne.

Certainly a Brisbane side will be part of the NSL next year, and so it should be, and the City of Wollongong will be there too.

But so too should teams from Tasmania and Western Australia and maybe even the Northern Territory if the powers that be want to call it a National League.

The competition must be diluted at present with so many teams from Sydney and Melbourne.

Both cities should be restricted to no more than say two such clubs in order to get full value from the players in each city.

A completely different approach is required to get Soccer off the canvas where it looks more likely it will receive the full count rather than regain its feet.

A new direction is needed at the top where many of the administrators have sat too long and who are likely to be dead in ten years.

Youth, vitality and vision for a new Australian Soccer is required — instead of the narrow minds that are only too often mired in the past in other countries that presently rule the roost today.

We need people who think of the game and Australia and are not afraid to take ten steps backwards in order to advance the many kilometres needed to place our great game at the top.

It is a sad fact that Soccer, which could buy and sell all other sports in this country, is sold so cheaply at the altar of expediency.

If those who care about the game fail to overcome the small egos and narrow confines on which the game currently operates then the forces of supply and demand will exact its toll.

WA is stricken with the same problems, having been shown the light by the State Government Task Force earlier this year only to snuff it out.

Therefore, what has WA to gain by entering a stagnant, restrictive National League that has so little to offer in return for the vast amounts of money demanded by NSL officials for admittance.

"It is easy for NSL officials to hide behind the statement that the rules for 1988 had been made and couldn't be changed" said WA consortium spokesman Nick Tana.

"In life if you are keen enough for change then change can be made.

"The truth of the matter is they don't want change and are happy to continue in the stagnant manner which has afflicted the National League for some time".

Mr Tana said that there are many in the administration who look back with pride on their connection with the code over 45 years.

"But this does not give them the right to stifle innovation and progress", said Tana.

"The game is struggling because of them."

"They and the ball came out with the boat, but we are now in the jet age and the game requires policies that are attuned to this new age".

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KIERAN COOPER LOOKS TO SOUTHERN SPELL

QUEENSLAND'S leading XXXX League goalscorer, Kieran Cooper, has been targetted by a number of southern NSL clubs.

The Azzurri Brisbane City striker, who finished the league with 19 goals in 22 games, already has been approached by one Melbourne club and a number of others have indicated their interest, since he announced in these columns that he was "open for offers."

While the Irishman is a visa player, his permanent residency can be obtained very easily as his mother and two sisters already reside in Australia.

He has no family back in Ireland and \$200 administration fee would remove the visa status.

He said his inability to get work in Brisbane meant he had to chase the best offer possible for 1988.

"I have had a tremendous time at Brisbane City and don't really want to leave, but without a job I have to look at making as much as I can from football," Cooper said.

Azzurri officials have had preliminary talks with Cooper for next season and remain confident of retaining him. But they admit that there is a limit to their finances.

Cooper is among several Azzurri players who have been targetted by other clubs, team captain, Frank Mengotti, almost certainly will be approached by Brisbane Lions although his transfer fee could be a stumbling block.

Mengotti also was linked last year with Footscray and it would not surprise if a number of Southern Clubs moved in for another bid. Mengotti, the Queensland fullback, was named Queensland Player of the Year a fortnight ago.

Ian Woodruffe is another certain to be lured from Azzurri by Mt. Gravatt. The former State Youth player left Mount Gravatt this season, but has been kept in reserves this year by the outstanding form of Wayne Evans.

Azzurri also are hoping to keep their coach Juan Cutillas, although he too has indicated he would go for "the best offer".

Cutillas has been linked with Lions, although some directors are still bitter over the Spaniard's comments after the grand final.

Cutillas said Lions would have to improve "100 percent" if they hoped to make the NSL.

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JASON DUNN SCOOPS POOL WITH CANBERRA GRIFFINS

CANBERRA Griffins defender Jason Dunn was named Player of the Year at the club's presentation barbecue — getting the recognition at home that was denied him in the NSW State Bank League at large.

Dunn did not attract a single vote in the recent League poll won by the Griffins' Alan Reis, an incredible omission for a player who put in solid, reliable performances week after week.

Still only 21, the 190cm former schoolboy international clearly has the ability to play in the NSL, but Griffins' management

will no doubt be hoping he is prepared to put aside those ambitions for another season.

Anthony Giannasca, whose rivalry with George Economopoulos made goalkeeper the most hotly contested position in the club, was named Most Improved Player.

Other awards: Griffins

reserves Player of the Year: Njegosh Popovich; Most Improved: Paolo Iannotta.

Canberra City Olympians Best and Fairest: Robbie Heidemanns and Peter Thompson; Most Improved: Steve Vanzetti; Reserves Best and Fairest: Paul Branson; Most Improved: Anthony Popovich.

Olympians Youth Best and Fairest: Michael Boulton; Most Improved: Raymond Kozjak.

Downer Olympic women's firsts Best and Fairest: Mariana Rollger; Most Improved: Sally McFadden.

WOMENS SUMMER SERIES

NINE teams have entered the ACT Women's Soccer Association's summer seven-a-side competition, Association president Peta Winzar told the annual meeting.

This was an increase on last year, the first time it was run, and in line with the continuing expansion of the women's game in the ACT.

The meeting elected two life members, Stephanie Quinn and Cass Hampton. Officers elected were: President: Peta Winzar, Secretary: Alison Condie, Treasurer: Gillian Malcolm, representative squads co-ordinator: Julie Anderson, registrar: Cathy McCullum, Publicity officer: Cass Hampton, Committee member: Chris Ault, Competitions officer: vacant.

CANBERRA CITY Olympian Best and Fairest — Peter Thompson views proceedings as a team-mate and the opposition number five fly high. At bottom right is ALAN REIS.

HEAT GENERATED

A LIST of suggested amendments to the ruled and regulations of the ACT Junior League had been circulated to promote discussion, the chairman of the Junior League Management Committee, Peter Hoogenboom, said.

He was commenting on criticisms by Croatia Deakin Soccer Club of a section in the amendments dealing with a ban on ethnic and nationalistic names.

"These amendments, which have been prepared by a member of the JLMC executive, will eventually come before the clubs for decision and it will then be over to Croatia Deakin to convince them of the validity of its objections," he said.

"It is still a free country and I would have thought that one club's arguments with a part of the proposal is no reason to withdraw or change it.

"It is, I repeat, only a suggestion for change."

Stressing that it was a personal viewpoint, Hoogenboom said he was philosophically opposed to ethnicity in sport.

"The days of the narrow, nationalistic viewpoint are over and it is time Soccer was Australianised," he said.

"Even the NSL is going to have to face the fact that a league composed of clubs backed by ethnic groups is never going to get broad support."

The vice president of the ACT Soccer Federation, Peter Collins, said it was not the Federation's view that ethnic names presented problems in Soccer.

"You could change Croatia Deakin's name to the Boomerang Club and it would not affect its essential character in any way — so why bother to try and change it?"

"The Federation does not support what is going on in the Junior League and I would expect that these matters will be discussed in great detail at the Federation's annual meeting."

The contentious amendments state that a club applying for membership of the Junior League shall not have a national name, include in its title any words which are not part of the English language, or have a name based on any national or ethnic characteristic. Instead, it is suggested its name bear a relationship to the area in which it is based.

Croatia Deakin said it would vigorously resist any attempt to ban ethnic and national names among members of the ACT Junior League, spokesman Frank Crnkovic said.

Crnkovic, a past president of the Soccer club and a now president of the Croatian Co-ordinating Committee for Canberra and Queanbeyan, said a list of suggested amendments to the rules and regulations of the Junior League contained several which Croatia Deakin found offensive.

"In particular, there is one which states that a club applying for membership of the competition shall not have a national name; shall not include words in its title which are not part of the English language; and shall not be based on any national or ethnic characteristic," he said.

"This kind of thing will only do damage to Soccer by stirring up animosity among spectators and administrators.

"I cannot understand how this kind of thing gets through when we have a Government which officially encourages multi-culturalism.

"I find the reference to the English language amazing. Does that mean an Aboriginal team would not be allowed to have an Aboriginal name as part of its title?"

"Croatia Deakin will be taking appropriate action, including legal action if necessary, to ensure that we can keep our name and our cultural identity at all levels of Soccer."



INDOOR SOCCER

ACT LEAGUE, div 1 (Southside): Matadores 4 Monash 3, Apaches 7 Flyway AFA 1, Placid Ark 7 International 1.

Div 2 (Southside): Wanni Tigers 2 Baron Harkonnen 2, Wombats 2 Black Ice 2, Brandy Bunch 8 Southern Meteores 2.

Div A (Northside): Penetrators 7 Atrios 0, City Club 3 International 0, Shadows 3 Sixty-Niners 2.

Div B (Northside): Iberians 6 Har-drock Cafe 1, Warriors 3 Boys from Europe 1, Comets 6 Westpack Wallpapers 0.

Div C (Northside): Condors 4 Red Devils 1, Ainslie Concrete Dribblers 9 Francos 2, White Eagles 4 Easts 2.

Under 16: Allnighters 6 Soccer-oos 0, Strikers 7 Villa 1, Blasters 7 Blue Thunder 0, Apollo 2 Mazibars 2, Prostars 3 Belconnen 2, Belnorth 5 Amigos 2.

Under 14: Eddies 4 All Blacks 0, All Stars 3 United 2, Hotshots 3 All Blacks 2, Socceros 0 Boomers 0, Liverpool 5 Wizards 0, Boomers 1 Eddies 0, Liverpool 2 Eddies 1, Wizards 2 All Blacks 1, Eddies 3 Hot Shots 1.

Under 13: Eagles 2 Falcons 2, Tigers 2 Flyers 1, Spartans 3 All-stars 1.

Under 12A (Southside): Blues 2 Hooligans 0, Bruisers 2 Defenders 0, Cool Cats 1 Individuals 0, Wanni Babs 1 Wizz Kids 0.

Under 12B (Southside): Arrows 2 Cobras 1, Green Machine 4 Narona Homes 3, Warriors 3 Arthur Young 0, Narona Homes 4 Arrows 1, Arthur Young 1 Cobras 1, Green Machine 1 Warriors 0, Arthur Young 9 Arrows 0.

Under 12A (Northside): Wanderers 3 Lobos 1, Strikers 3 tigers 2, Eagles 2 Socceros 0.

Under 12B (Northside): Megastars 4 Lions 0, Falcons 0 Dazzlers 0, Wanderers 6 Hobos 3.

Under 11: Crocks 8 Leopards 1 Wolves 3 Hawks 0, Wobblers 3 Panthers 1, Tigers 4 Bandits 3, Hotshots 6 Giants 0, Europe 4 Tigers 3, Allstars 6 Eagles 1.

Under 10A (Southside): Gators 4 Panthers 0, St John Vianney 3 Eagles 0, allstars 3 Dinamos 0, St John Vianney 1 Buffaloes 0.

Under 10B (Southside): Kiwals 3 Scorpions 0, Knockouts 5 Pandas 0, Kiwals 4 Sharpshooters 0, Kangaroos 2 Holder Harriers 2.

Under 10 (Northside): Mares 5 Gunners 2, Eagles 2 Hawks 0, Cats 4 Falcons 2.

Under 8 (Southside): Magicians 4 Tee Pees 0, Aussies 6 Garfield 0, Pandas 2 Cheetahs 1, Bombers 1 Devils 1.

Under 8 (Northside): Leprechauns 4 Cardinals 0, Drummer 3 Jets 1.

South Coast Croatia too good

SOUTH Coast Croatia became the first holder of the Ampol Soccer Championship, beating Croatia Deakin 3-2 (5-4 on aggregate) in the well attended final at Memorial Park, Corrimal.

It was a deserved win for the Illawarra club and a fitting reward for its superior workrate and sharpness in front of goal.

Deakin had its chances, including a missed penalty, but in general its competent approach work broke down on the edge of its opponent's penalty area.

South Coast took the lead in the 13th minute. Ivan Sourano slipped the ball back to the oncoming Neil Williams, who blasted a shot through a crowded penalty area into the net.

The Deakin forward causing the most trouble to the South Coast defence was John Forova and he got a great equaliser on the half hour, goalkeeper Craig Broughton getting a hand to his wickedly curling

shot on its way into the net.

And Forova was involved again when Andrew Glackin upended him in the area, but Tony Lemezina made a mess of the spot kick, shooting weakly and wide.

Then Joe Coehlo showed Lemezina how it was done when South Coast was awarded a penalty at the other end, cracking the ball hard and low past Frank Reising to make the halftime score 2-1.

The next goal was yet another penalty. Once again Forova was involved, this time being jostled off the ball as he ran through.

Stan Dukic, having a fine game in defence where he was deputising for the injured Jim Harkins, made no mistake from the spot.

BELCONNEN WIN ON AGGREGATE

BELCONNEN United took third place in the Ampol Championship competition, drawing with Bulli 1-1 at Corrimal to win 4-3 on aggregate.

United had by far the best of the first half and should have taken the lead when Micky Searle's side-foot shot hit the post and rebounded to Michael Wiseman, who blazed over.

But it was Bulli who scored first — a long ball from Ron Van De Voorde putting Steve Quirk clear through to beat goalkeeper Richard Tomaszewski.

Bellconnen hit back three minutes into the second half with the hard-working Searle hitting a

perfectly placed shot past Kevin Nutter.

The ACT side let things slip after that and Bulli came back dangerously close to an equaliser when Gary Mann somehow missed with a header from point-blank range.

BULLI: Nutter, Christie, J Van De Voorde, Mann, Carpenter, Charnock, G Lewis, K Lewis (Grimshaw 66th), Quirk, R Van De Voorde, Haines.

BELCONNEN UNITED: Tomaszewski, Walsh, Collins, Bennett, Watkins, DiMichiel, Holcroft, Ugri-nic, Wiseman, Roberts (Florese 71st), Searle.

Referee: R Robertson.

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AUSTRALIAN INDOOR PAGE

ASCOT VALE HOPS TO TITLE

By ROY HAY

THE fourth Victorian Indoor Soccer Championships held at the Valley Indoor Sports Centre at Moe on 17-18th October were a huge success.

President, Eane Whitten, said that the standard of competition was the highest ever and the sportsmanship and friendly atmosphere contributed to an excellent series of matches.

Thirty four teams took part in Open Mens, Under-20, Under-18, Under-16, Under-14, Open Womens, and Youth Womens competitions. Tournament Director, Robert Issell, and his hard-working staff deserve great credit for the smooth running of the championships.

The Open Mens championship was won by a very fine Grasshoppers team from Ascot Vale, which contained the nucleus of last year's winning Preston Pythons team.

Once again, Vigilio and Fortunato Carvalho, reinforced by John Metaxas, were just too skilful and mobile for the opposition, winning their three qualifying matches by 23-2.

In the semi-final, Grasshoppers defeated a plucky Geelong Zagreb side, for which Ivan Istuk and Eddie Vlasnovic played particularly well. Geelong's other team, the Cats, met Thomastown Crushers in the second semi-final and won a very close match by the odd goal in five.

The final between Grasshoppers and Cats was keenly contested in the early stages with Dinko Uljar giving Geelong some hope when he equalised Grasshoppers opening goal.

Thereafter the East Timorese lads just romped away with the

match to win comfortably 7-1.

The Open womens competition was very closely contested. The home team, Moe, Ascot Vale Upsurge, Geelong and Ascot Vale Wonders reached the finals.

Janine McPhee of Upsurge was one of the key players in the qualifying rounds, destroying Geelong with a brilliant hat-trick.

Finals are great levelers and Geelong led Upsurge 2-0 deep into the second half, before the all round skills of the Ascot Vale side proved too much and Upsurge qualified to meet Moe again in the final.

At full time and extra-time, the teams were still inseparable and the match went to penalty kicks before Moe scraped home 6-5.

CRC Old Boys won the Under-20 tournament the hard way. Old Boys lost its first semi-final to Thomastown Warlords, but then defeated Moe Gym to qualify for the final.

This time it made no mistake and ran out winners 4-0 over the luckless Warlords.

Moe Macs only just scraped into third place in the Under-18 competition, but then got better and better, defeating Grasshoppers and Box Hill Buffaloes, the latter 10-3 to take the title in an emphatic manner.

Grasshoppers had its glory in the Youth Ladies running through the competition undefeated and accounting for Moe Angels in both the first semi-final and the grand final by identical scores of

2-1.

Ascot Vale Triestina and Moe Rebels made up this section and though giving away age, made up for that with enthusiasm and skill.

At Under-16, both Geelong sides lost their opening matches against teams from Knox playing under the Donvale banner.

Last year's Under-14 champion, Alan Heath's Donvale Tradecraft I ran up six goals without reply against Geelong City, while Tradecraft II defeated Geelong Bullets 3-0.

When it came to the grand final however, it was the two Geelong teams which had clawed their way into it and Bullets beat City after extra time and penalty kicks 6-5.

Kris Trajanovski scored

a hat-trick for City, which was the Under-15 side, while Ali Saylik, 2, and Pierre Grzybek counted for Bullets.

At Under-14, Geelong City ran away with the title, though it had its closest match in the grand final against Thomastown, finally winning in extra time 3-1. Lupco Stefanovski scored twice and Robert Nestorovski got the other for City.

Victorian coaches announced the training squads for the state teams for the National Championships at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra in January.

No doubt the players on view at Moe will give a good account of themselves when they meet their interstate rivals next year.

A FULL HOUSE FOR FAIRFIELD

THE match of the year between James Hardie NISL pace setters Gridline Eagles and Sydney Tornadoes will be staged this Saturday evening at the Fairfield Leisure Centre before a "full house."



ROBBIE STUART
(Tornadoes)

There is little doubt the Sydney duo are the teams to beat for this year's title.

Gridline, newcomers to the James Hardie NISL, are the reigning State Champions of NSW and the Tornadoes are the defending national champions, beating Canberra City Strikers in last season's grand final.

Both sides, at the time

NEXT WEEK ASW will publish a sample of photos from the fourth Victorian Indoor championships held at the Valley Indoor Centre in Moe.

The James Hardie National Indoor Soccer League match between Thomastown Twisties and Geelong's C.C.'s Cats was also played in association with the championships, with Geelong running out winners 5-3.

The newly launched Rules booklet prepared by the Victorian Indoor Soccer Referees' Association was available at the championships. This sets new standards for Australia with its clear presentation of the rules and very useful guidance for players, coaches and match organisers as well as referees and linesmen.

The first issue of the newsletter of the VISA, The Indoor Striker, made its appearance too. The second issue will contain full results from the championships and reports on national, state and local indoor soccer.

YELLOW CARD FOR GRIDLINE

JAMES Hardie NISL leaders Gridline Eagles have been given a stern warning from the AISF regarding crowd disturbances.

In a recent match spectators became involved in an on the field altercation and the AISF has told the talented Eagles that a repeat could see them heavily punished and future games played with no spectators.

Gridline, along with Perth, is the best supported team in the James Hardie NISL.

Still the AISF has no option but to increase security, and warn the franchise that it is responsible for the behaviour of the small minority of fans who want to take matters into their own hands.

IT is hard not to be impressed with the Perth Cougars — the franchise doing most things right in their very first year in the James Hardie NISL.

Players such as Zoran Antanasovski, Michael Rokki, Boris Antanasovski and skipper Vlado Strafela must be pushing for national team selection for next year's World Cup should their early season form be any guide.

SYDNEY Tornadoes are pushing ahead with plans to tour Israel early next year.

Tornadoes manager Ben Pinchas is delighted with the enthusiasm the Israelis are approaching the tour.

HECTOR Martinez earned the dubious distinction of getting the first red card of the season during Paramatta Spartans recent James Hardie NISL match against the Sydney Tornadoes.

CLASH

Match of the year

of writing, are undefeated.

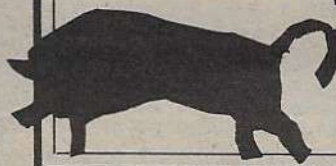
Gridline have dropped only one point in 11 matches — the Tornadoes have a perfect 10 out of 10 record.

Gridline led by leading scorer and Buffalo Player of the Year contest leader Siska Filipovic, have scored 104 goals as opposed to the Tornadoes 50 yet it is in the

defensive area where the well organised and disciplined Tornadoes have the edge.

For those who have yet to get along to the James Hardie NISL game we suggest next Saturday is the time to do it.

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The James Hardie National Indoor Soccer League

THE OSMAN SHOW!

The James Hardie Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GRIDLINE Eagles	13	11	2	0	113	46	24
SYDNEY Tornadoes	12	12	0	0	79	23	24
PERTH Cougars	13	9	1	3	109	62	19
PARRAMATTA Spartans	14	9	0	5	83	62	18
LOTTO Allstars	12	7	2	3	49	33	16
CANBERRA Strikers	15	6	1	8	113	88	13
CANBERRA Rockets	15	6	1	8	73	82	13
THOMASTOWN Twisties	11	5	0	6	50	51	10
ILLAWARRA Stingers	13	4	0	9	54	60	8
GEELONG CC's Cats	11	3	2	6	43	50	8
BRISBANE Bombers	15	2	0	13	45	111	4
BUNDEBERG C'cutters	12	0	0	12	24	164	0

This weeks results

Gridline Eagles 2 Thomastown Twisties 2
 Sydney Tornadoes 12 Brisbane Bombers 1
 Lotto Allstars 13 Bundaberg C'cutters 1
 Gridline Eagles 7 Geelong CC's 2
 Sydney Tornadoes 17 Bundaberg C'cutters 2
 Perth Cougars 10 Parramatta Spartans 3
 Lotto Allstars 6 Brisbane Bombers 3
 Canberra Strikers 8 Illawarra Stingers 7
 Canberra Rockets 6 Illawarra Stingers 2

BUFFALO TopScorers

The Sharpshooters

49 Radovan Filipovic (Eagles)
 38 Zoran Antanasovski (Cougars)
 36 Jim Kanaridis (Strikers)
 30 Billy Stewart (Strikers)
 24 Carlos Akkary (Spartans)
 23 Zoran Blazic (Eagles)
 21 Emil Maracic (Rockets)
 21 Robbie Noggler (CC's)
 20 Michael Roki (Cougars)
 20 John Metaxas (Twisties)
 20 Vince Nastoski (Eagles)
 19 Stan Dukic (Rockets)
 19 Steve Knight (Tornadoes)
 18 Glen Jeffery (Tornadoes)
 15 Peter Dameski (Spartans)
 15 Billy Willox (Strikers)

BUFFALO PLAYER OF THE YEAR

26 — Radovan Filipovic (Eagles)
 19 — Robbie Noggler (CC's)
 16 — Steve Knight (Tornadoes)
 14 — Zoran Blazic (Eagles)
 13 — Billy Stewart (Strikers)
 13 — Jim Kanaridis (Strikers)
 13 — Stan Dukic (Rockets)
 11 — Carlos Akkary (Spartans)
 11 — John Metaxas (Twisties)
 10 — Peter Dameski (Spartans)
 10 — Michael Roki (Cougars)
 10 — Vlado Strafela (Cougars)

NEXT WEEKS GAMES: Friday 30th October

Illawarra Media v Sydney Media
 Stingers v CC's Cats at Wollongong Uni

Saturday 31st October

Cougars v Crushers at Perry Lakes
 Rockets v CC's Cats at AIS
 Tornadoes v Gridline at Fairfield Leisure
 Allstars v Spartans at Fairfield
 Bombers v Canecutters at Chandler, Cararra

Sunday 1st November

Strikers v Geelong at Dickson College

Kick-Off times for JHNISL matches.

FRIDAYS: 7.15PM AND 8.30PM
 SATURDAYS: 7.15PM AND 8.30PM
 SUNDAYS: 10.00AM AND 11.00AM

SYDNEY TOYOTA TORNADOES 12
 (Erkin Osman 6, Erjan Osman 3,
 Cassar, Lembryk and Tour)
BRISBANE BOMBERS 1 (Crane)
 at the Fairfield Leisure Centre.

There was just no stopping the Osman brothers on this night. Brisbane had no answer and it is highly unlikely that any other side would have had.

Erkin Osman was literally on fire, playing a nearly perfect brand of indoor soccer. He in fact smashed the first six goals of the match. A couple of defensive lapses blotted his otherwise flawless copybook. After his sixth strike, brother Erjan decided it was time to show anything his brother could do, he could do just as well.

Amid the nine goals they plundered were some absolute screamers, with both men combining expertly with the very talented yet vastly under-rated Anthony Cassar.

Cassar as ever bore the brunt of the opposition's defending tactics, be they legal or otherwise, but to his credit he stood the test and his distribution would prove priceless to the champions.

The only defect one can pick up on the former Latrobe Valley player's game is that he seems reluctant to turn and take on his man once he receives a pass, preferring to lay off. Yet there are circumstances in a match when the one-on-one situation arises and should be attacked with purpose. He has the speed and the close-ball skills so this should be overcome with little trouble in the near future.

This overwhelming triumph by the Tornadoes augurs well for their spine-tingling clash next Saturday with Gridline Eagles. The Sydney boys were minus four regulars — Steve Knight, Trevor Ormrod, Glen Jeffery and Leon Moon.

Tornadoes v Eagles — it should be a cracker. Any self-respecting sport lover should be at Fairfield for this one.

BUFFALO Points: 3 Erkin Osman (STT) 2 Anthony Cassar (STT) 1 Erjan Osman (STT)

LOTTO ALLSTARS 13 (Gilligan 5, White 2, Ross 2, Peachy, Vince, Del Giudice and Strom-quiz)

BUNDEBERG CANECUTTERS 1 (Burt)

LOTTO Allstars could have little to enthuse about from this match... and the beleaguered Canecutters even less.

The Allstars began the match in a relaxed even lackadaisical manner and continued throughout. The only time the match really came to life was when Scott Gilligan entered the fray for the second time midway through the second half and blasted two goals inside 10 seconds.

The only consolation for the battered Bundaberg lads came when Brett Burt buried the final goal of the match inside the last two minutes.

It has become fairly evident that the Canecutters are a side playing outdoor Soccer on an indoor pitch, something which will never work. They well resemble a bunch of outdoor guys thrown together in a hurry to make up the numbers. The AASIF must act smartly from here on in to avoid starting 'whipping horses' in the JHNISL. A competition which will prosper to bigger and better things ought to shy away from entering sides of the nature of Bundaberg and last year's battlers Mackay Monarchs. This is no broadside at the Canecutters, for all it's worth it looks as if they have no backing at all and were sent out on a hiding to nothing from the outset. They have fought valiantly but having courage in your convictions doesn't always work, certainly not in this company it does not.

BUFFALO Points: 2 Scott Gilligan (LA) 2 John White (LA) 1 Brett Burt (BC) 1 Glen Ross (LA).

GRIDLINE EAGLES 7 (Radovan 3, Nastoski 2, Filipovic and Blazic)

GEELONG CC's CATS 2 (Noggler 2)

at Corio Leisuretime Centre.

The high-flying Eagles proved too good for the youngest side fielded by the CC's at Corio.

BUFFALO Points: 2 Radovan Filipovic (GE) 2 Mirko Radosavljevic (GE) 2 Robbie Noggler (GC)

WITH ASW more than likely ending publication on November 11, the weekly standings of the Buffalo Player of the Year and Buffalo Top Goalscorer will obviously not be published. This is coincidental however because the tallies would not have been shown for the last six weeks in any case to

Not Donny and Marie. . . more like Erkin and Erjan

keep the winners identities concealed only to be announced on the gala night of the JHNISL on December 20 at Georges River Hall. Meantime club officials are requested to continue the normal ritual of forwarding the relevant information to the ASW offices for AAP copy and for publishing in the second JHNISL Bulletin — 'Inside Indoor'. As it is the inaugural Inside Indoor will be out in a fortnight.

In the first edition of ASW next year a double page spread will cover all the rounds and subsequent finals played in November/December.

SYDNEY TOYOTA TORNADOES 17 (Jeffery 7, Knight 5, Stuart 2, Lembryk 2 and Erjan Osman)

BUNDEBERG CANECUTTERS 2 (Burt and Giovannoni)

Glen Jeffery, after having the previous night off, slammed in seven and captain-coach Steve Knight, also returning in this match, grabbed five.

BUFFALO Points: 3 Steve Knight (STT) 2 Glen Jeffery (STT) 1 Danny Walk (BC)

THOMASTOWN TWISTIES 2 (Metaxas 2)

GRIDLINE EAGLES 2 (Blazic and Nastoski)

The Gridline Eagles dropped their second point of the seasons in a bruising match against Thomastown Twisties.

To put the result in its right perspective, the Crushers can count themselves somewhat unfortunate not to have grabbed both points — constantly being denied by Angelo Rodic in the Eagles' goal.

The Crushers' defence was far too strong for the much vaunted Gridline strike power, with danger-man Radovan Filipovic completely ineffective for the first time this sea-

son as he was marked out of the game.

BUFFALO Points: 3 Angelo Rodic (GE) 2 Steve Hackett (TT) 1 John Metaxas (TT).

PERTH COUGARS 10 (Strafela 2, Z. Antanasovski 2, Roki 2, Gaitan, Sutton, Katinski and an own goal) **PARRAMATTA SPARTANS 3** (Akkary 2, Spirovski) at Perry Lakes Stadium.

The Perth Cougars replaced the Parramatta Spartans in third position in the league when they convincingly outplayed the visitors.



Twisties' striker JOHN METAXAS leaps into a challenge with a Gridline Eagle player at the weekend. Pic — Carmelo Bazzano.

BUFFALO Points: 3 Richard Gaitan (PC) 2 Carlos Akkary (PES) 1 Boris Antanasovski (PC).

LOTTO ALLSTARS 6 (Sutherland 2, Ross 2, Vince and Peachy)

BRISBANE BOMBERS 3 (Simpson...)

BUFFALO Points: 2 Glen Ross (LA) 2 Colin Simpson (BB) 1 Lee

Sutherland (LA) 1 Chris Vince (LA).

CANBERRA STRIKERS 8 (Kanaridis 4, Stewart 2, Jadric and Stilton)

ILLAWARRA STINGERS 7 (Cabanas 3, Skirteviski, Tupan-cheski, Wunch, Cularon) at Wollongong University

In a particularly tough game, Canberra Strikers used every tactic and more to unnervingly upset the inexperienced Illawarra Stingers and to an extent they succeeded by winning 8-7.

However the win came after the IMB Stingers gave them some very anxious moments and in the end were grossly unfortunate not to steal a point at the very least.

BUFFALO Points: 2 Jim Kanaridis (CS) 2 Tommy Cabanas (IS) 1 Phil Mathias (IS) 1 Billy Stewart (CS).

CANBERRA ROCKETS 6 (Lemezina 5 and Vrkic)
IMB ILLAWARRA STINGERS 2 (Mathias 2)

The 6-2 scoreline certainly flattered the Rockets, who were mighty relieved to go home with as big a margin as they did and the two points.

BUFFALO Points: 2 Tony Lemezina (CR) 2 Stan Dukic (CR) 1 Tommy Cabanas (IS) 1 Frank Sales (IS)

★ The big clash is all set to happen this Friday night at the Wollongong University when the Illawarra press take on the Sydney press. What must be remembered is that the Illawarra side issued the challenge! This then can be construed as supreme confidence — the Sydney side hold no fears, except for the rollercoaster ride half an hour prior to the match through the Port Kembla-Wollongong area in a tiny mini-bus.

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SCRAP PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

THE recent call by championship-winning coach Rale Rasic for the scrapping of promotion and relegation from the National League for at least five years is absolutely correct.

And to hell with the predictable outcry that will surely be raised by some State Federations and number of their clubs.

If one is going to be brutally frank, it is precisely those clubs which, with a couple of exceptions, have played a major role in dragging the code down to its present level.

Progressive and far sighted clubs like St George, Marconi, APIA and Adelaide City have been forced to severely limit their ambitions in order to accommodate what in all honesty are not more than social clubs.

For three wasted seasons between 1984 and 1986, our supposedly elite league had to endure the likes of Penrith City, Green Gully Ajax and Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic.

It's outfits like these, and a few others who somehow managed to retain their NSL status, which should have a good look at themselves and ask what they have contributed to Australian football.

Some have been in existence for over forty years and still do not have a ground to call their own - they have to accept sub-standard facilities grudgingly given to them by local councils.

These clubs are now

calling for a return to the same ludicrous situation that existed in the middle eighties, claiming that the current league is not achieving what it set out to do.

One of the major problems with our game is simply that it's run on a basis which is overly democratic.

Minor State League clubs have got voting rights akin to those of the giants who are the major contributors to the code's development.

If every professional football is going to reach acceptable levels in this country, it needs to rid itself of all the political influence exerted by the game's minnows.

What we must have is a quasi-dictatorship, which will hand pick 12 or at the most 14 strategically placed, professionally administered clubs in major centres around Australia.

Should this require amalgamation by certain clubs then so be it.

South Melbourne and Heidelberg can either agree to become one or go back to State League football.

Marconi and APIA has to be given the same direction, a single club in Adelaide and one in Brisbane is sufficient to represent those States in a truly elite National League.

Bring in West Australia, perhaps consider Tasma-

nia and give Canberra another chance to get it's act together.

Tinkering with the same basic set up will not remedy the sickness. A new dynamic revolutionary formula is becoming increasingly necessary.

The Australian Soccer Federation has to start recognising the game's priorities and place them above the small-thinking self interests of the various State Federations.

Instead of so called Super State Leagues let's aspire towards super clubs in an elite National League. Those who miss out can go back into their own state set ups, thus improving those competitions.

By taking this concept one step further and having the new National League operating in summer, the traditional winter season can be utilised

FRANK SCICLUNA
hits out

exclusively by State Leagues and amateur/junior bodies, eliminating the present division of spectator loyalties.

As Rasic rightly claims, the game will be set back 20 years if we revert to the old State Leagues, nothing is ever gained from looking backwards.

A new look National League consisting of 12 or 14 strong, truly professional clubs who will be guaranteed safety from relegation for at least five years will prove to be attractive propositions for the likes of Harry Michaels to consider private ownership.

Who knows what that can lead to. It just might be the catalyst to propel the game into the 21st century and provide some hope for the realisation of the long held dream for full time professionalism.

STEVE MAXWELL REELING

BY KEITH GILMOUR

IT is no wonder if Steve Maxwell is still wondering what hit him, figuratively speaking.

Sent off in the elimination semi-final at St George Stadium against Sydney Croatia, he was charged with striking Croatia goalkeeper Greg Woodhouse by referee Chris Bainbridge on the report of linesman Dave Ellis.

Maxwell says all he did was to go into the net to collect the ball.

Woodhouse says that Tommy McCulloch pushed him, and that he feigned injury to indicate that he had been struck a blow.

McCulloch quickly admitted that he was the culprit in the incident, such as it was.

The Marconi club appealed against the send-off on the grounds of wrong identity.

Maxwell and Woodhouse attended the hearing, but we understand that McCulloch was not required. The NSL Executive ruled that Max-

well's one match suspension would stand.

Now, if you were an innocent party and were convicted of a misdemeanour, what would you feel.

The ground for the NSL decision is stated to be a rule that if a player is sent-off, he must stand down for a match.

The NSL is loaded with solicitors. There is a strong presumption, if not a certainty, that Maxwell was innocent. The fact that he resisted leaving the ground is an entirely subsidiary matter under such circumstances.

What would our solicitor friends do if Maxwell was their client.

It seems that, to amend the usual phrase, justice has not only to appear to be done, it should be done as well.

It is surely up to Marconi to see that this affair is fully sorted out. Washing hands of a matter was never ever good enough.

Big John

BIG John Miller, one of SA's senior referees and regular NSL linesmen for Adelaide matches, could

ALBERT ISN'T KIDDING

By TOM MCKAIN

INTERSTATE teams who have been eyeing Adelaide Hellas' Scottish import Albert Kidd can forget trying to sign the midfielder.

He is on a two-year contract and will stay with the South Australian team.

The nuggetty professional from the Dundee club has hardly put a foot wrong since arriving in Australia last August.

His only regret was being sent off in the first leg of the West End qualifier against Brisbane Lions for dissent.

"That was a big blow, but I never thought I would go for just claiming a penalty," said Kidd.

"I was desperate to help the lads get back in the National League.

"But there is always next year, and I'll be with Hellas.

"They've been good to me and I always stick to my contract.

"My wife and children like Adelaide and unless the club wants to sell me I have no plans to move.

"At this stage it looks as if we will try to become permanent residents."

Now 30, Kidd reckons

he can play for at least three more years in top Soccer.

"I look after myself and I enjoy my game, so I'll just keep playing," he said.

His only problem is boredom.

Having come from a full professional environment he finds time on his hands.

Although he is a toolmaker by trade he has not worked at it for 10 years.

"I may look around for

some sort of job," he said.

"The club has already said it will find me work if I want it.

"I certainly train myself during the day, but it's not the same as working with a group."

Holder of a Scottish coaching certificate, Kidd eventually wants to use it, but not as a player-coach.

"I'll wait until I hang up my boots, but coaching is certainly something I want to do in the future," he said.



Education & Soccer

NSW SCHOOLS NEED ORGANISATION

THE opportunity clearly exists for some enthusiasts to make a huge improvement to NSW schoolboy Soccer.

Armed with the assistance of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation, the Commonwealth Bank Soccer Cup provides a highlight for the school sports year.

The catch however is that only schools from the NSW Education Dept system are admitted to play.

Fortunately for the game the Commonwealth Bank Cup was complemented some years ago by the Under 15 Bill Turner Cup.

As with the Commonwealth Bank Cup, well over 300 schools compete over the statewide educational regions.

The difference however is that the Turner Cup welcomes teams from the independent and Catholic schools systems as well as the public sector.

What it means is that boys play Turner Cup and are recruited for other codes because their schools cannot be accepted into the Commonwealth Bank Cup.

And so too much talent goes down the drain.

It is one thing to have the private schools playing in their own competitions and cups, but there is so much prestige in the state-wide series that the same results simply aren't achieved.

The NSW Education Dept naturally prefers to run its own competitions.

But other sports find the way to join independent and state schools together in the one show.

And indeed the NSW schools, thanks to the dedication of so many teachers and referees, find a method to win through in the case of the Under 15 Bill Turner Cup.

Its quite a challenge to solve the problem.

As it is, in the Australian Schoolboys Championships, NSW is represented by state schools players only.

And so it goes on to national level.

So, Soccer-motivated teachers, can the improvement be made if the thinking caps go on?

— KEITH GILMOUR

NORTH BANKSTOWN Soccer Club

1988 Youth League Trials

Sundays 25th October, 1st November,
8th November

U13s and U14s, 9.30 a.m.
U15s and U17s, 11 a.m.

At Condell Park High School,
Third Ave, Condell Park
Enquiries: Ring 726 1162

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

At Centenary Sports Area
Cnr Church and Lang Sts,
Ashfield

U13, U14
Tuesdays from 5.30 pm to 8 pm
October 27, November 3, 10, 17 and 24
U15, U17
Thursdays October 29, November 5, 12,
19, 26, also from 5.30 pm to 8 pm

Enquiries to Nick Matsias,
Telephone: 759 4373

APIA JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB

NSW YOUTH LEAGUE CLUB CHAMPIONS 1987

The above Club will be conducting a limited
number of trials on the following dates...

TUESDAY OCTOBER 20th Under 13s and 14s.
THURSDAY OCTOBER 22nd Under 15s and 16s.
TUESDAY OCTOBER 27th Under 13s and 14s.
THURSDAY OCTOBER 29th Under 15s and 16s.
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3rd Under 13s and 14s.
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5th Under 15s and 16s.

COMMENCING 6PM

VENUE: LAMBERT PARK
Marion Street, LEICHHARDT
Further Enquiries: Mr Tony Raciti
Phone: 799 4458, Day or Night.





The NSW Amateur Federation

Supporting 130,000 players in the State

SOCCER'S MAXI LEAD OVER OTHER SPORTS

RECENTLY the Sydney Morning Herald carried a sports page feature covering mini rules for the sports of rugby league and Australian rules.

The only reference to Soccer was another code sneaking on to a Soccer ground to play its boys.

How sick some of these stories are.

The writer showed no signs of having investigated the position of junior Soccer, which is played Sydney and NSW wide in huge numbers compared with other sports.

Last year the NSW Rugby League made a big play over its mini-rules for youngsters, but how late they were.

Way back in history Soccer coach David Lee codified mini-Soccer ruled for juniors and had them widely accepted right throughout all areas of the game.

This pioneering work, plus the undoubted attractions of Soccer, helped the game to lead its competitors by a proverbial mile.

The 'biff and bash' sports hardly rate. In rugby league the crimes committed on the field so

often only result in short term sin bin treatment.

And take a look at the disgraceful exhibition Australian rules sent overseas.

The games could hardly have been to propagate their game. They must have been for home consumption, where king hits from behind seem to be quite acceptable.

Even the publicity for the games had a boxing-like quality.

It is wrong for Australian Soccer to accept some of the publicity it re-

ceives from outside the game.

Even in the October Readers Digest was found an unsatisfactory reference to the game.

The article referred to the strengths of Soccer and football in playing interest in Australia.

It seems that someone didn't know that Soccer IS football.

Other games to varying degrees are hand passing with a bit of kicking interspersed.

Plus, of course, quite a deal of biff.

— KEITH GILMOUR



THIS youngster from the Albury Wodonga border district obviously enjoys his Soccer.



GREYSTANES' HALF CENTURY

THE Under 14 Division I Greystanes Soccer team put their reputation on the line when they represented the Granville Association at Parklea Stadium in the grand final of the state-wide Champion of Champions competition.

As an Under 13 team last year Greystanes faced a similar task and became the first side to win the prestigious state title for the Greystanes club. They won the game 9-1.

The team was undefeated in 49 consecutive matches and made it a memorable 50 when they narrowly defeated Liverpool Albion 1-0 in the final.

Coach Paul Sparkes was highly delighted by the way in which his team trained and competed over the two seasons.

GREYSTANES U14-1: Back: L to R: Bruce Waine, Damian Beckhouse, Tony Arseniou, Shane Neilsen, Steve Crawlhall. Front: L to R: Ray Solomon (Conditioner), Shannon Solomon, Elvis Kiseloski, Grant Davidson, Brett Sparkes, Brendan Field, Sean Quinn, Brett Ralph, Paul Sparkes (coach), Graham Crawlhall (manager).

NSW U15'S SUCCESS IN PERTH

PREPARATION for this year's championships were severely hampered by the inclement weather. Nevertheless coach Greg Ankudinoff assisted by trainer Frank Wilson and manager Vince Balzan was able to have the team at their peak on departure.

The first match was played against last year's champions Victoria.

NSW had made eight changes to the 1986 U14 team while the Victorians had only three.

The match as expected was of a high standard and the difference between the two sides on the day was a well taken header by David Seal, who finished the tournament as top scorer with 11 goals.

The atmosphere after the match was electrifying with the boys singing victory songs for about 10 minutes or so.

It may have seemed premature but the confidence and team morale built on that first day was to ensure the championship came back to NSW.

The team's fighting spirit and determination

was exhibited on a number of occasions.

In the match against Queensland NSW were down 0-2 and managed to come back to 1-2 by the break. The boys were playing well - however the goals would not come.

Midway through the second half NSW were awarded a penalty which was missed.

Everyone including George Pagan, the Queensland coach, had NSW defeated but they had not allowed for that fighting spirit which had developed.

The squad went on to win via a David Seal hat trick 4-2.

The match against Western Australia was like a final with the winning team likely to take the championship. NSW

were down by a goal at halftime and again showed great spirit getting up to win 3-1.

It is difficult to single out players from such a talented squad but for consistency there was David Seal, Eddie Pervan, Robbie Stanton and Adam Ciantar.

Everyone in the team and the strength of the players on the bench contributed to the victory.

David would not have scored his goals had he not been excellently supported by Matthew Bingley, Eddie and Adam and assisted by the rest of the defence of Mammone, Bojkovski, Souris and Chemali.

The midfield of Stanton, Sorras, Bradley and Alilovic was a well oiled machine.

Bradley Maloney and John Kakakios were excellent utility players. The goalkeepers Emenual Refenes and Mark Bosnich, although not often called upon, did what was required.

Mark had a superb game against Northern NSW and it was through his efforts that the match remained scoreless.

The tournament was well organised and many friendships were formed during the week.

Hopefully NSW will be able to repay this friendship in 1988, when all the championships will be played in Sydney.

The talent taken to Perth and the talent we left behind augers well for the future of Soccer in Australia.



New South Wales U15 — Australian Champions. The NSW U15 squad is: Eddy Pevan, Eddy Alliovic, Paul Souris, Mathew Bingley, Bradley Maloney, Adam Ciantar, Emenual Refenes, Robert Chemali, Pat Bradley, David Seal, Jason Mammone, Robert Stanton, John Kakakios, George Sorras, Tony Bojkovski. Absent: Mark Bosnich.

RUSHY'S N.S.W. PLAYER

NAME: Mark Bosnich.
BIRTHDATE: 13.1.72
HOME: Sydney.
PRESENT CLUB: Sydney Croatia.
PRESENT COACHES: Ron Corry, Dick Kocass, Alan Vest.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Hajduk Rangers, Marconi.
PREVIOUS COACHES: Marko Bosnich, John Padovan, Klaus Okon.
FAVOURITE POSITION: Goalkeeper.
POSITIONS PLAYED: Left Wing, Goalkeeper.

REP HONOURS: N.S.W. Under 13, 14, 15 and Australia Under 16.
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Peter Shilton, Tony Franken.
MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: '85 Mini Ampol Cup Replay.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None as yet.
OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, Basketball.
1987 AIMS: Stay injury free and achieve good results in Soccer.
LONG TERM AMBITIONS: Play professional football.
GREATEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Family, Ron Corry, Alan Vest.
ALAN VEST'S OPINION: Mark has the potential to be as good as any keeper in Australia. He is keen, dedicated and has all the necessary ingredients. Mark is likely to join Liverpool next year and should his skills continue to improve he should reach his long term ambitions.

APIA GET STUCK IN THE

ASW'S SPECIAL GUEST WRITER — JOHN DOYLE WAS AT THE BIG GAME TO SEE THE SAINTS GO MARCHING INTO THE GRAND FINAL

ST GEORGE deserved their glory in the NSL major semi-final at St George Stadium on Sunday.

The 2-1 victory in the mud over APIA put them into the 1987 grand final.

Their young side had to beat a great defensive unit to get there.

APIA paid the price for having no planned or rehearsed attacking moves in their game.

All year they have depended upon their greatest asset... their powerful defence.

But this time that defence was let down in the 16th minute with what can only be described as a lunatic piece of concentration by the referee.

Old Mother Hubbard would have seen Craig Moffitt give Gary Ward a huge push before planning the header into the

APIA net for the first goal.

Good luck to young Craig, and Frank Arok would not complain but it seems to me that there were 22 players out there trying to decide the important game.



ANDY KOCZKA

Yet the referee is often more influential than anybody.

APIA's extra experience meant nothing on the day because they failed to have an attacking game plan.

On a wet day, defensive intimidation was less likely to be effective as players refused to dive in because of poor traction.

To anyone recognising real ability, the fact that St George would give APIA a run for their money was no surprise.

Coach Arok has been sitting on a mine of young talent for some time.

Why else would he have let certain players leave the club?

Why would Atti Abonyi enjoy being there with this wealth of talent?

St George are a chance in any event they contest.

Steve O'Connor may have made part of the error that led to the equaliser by Hilton Phillips.

But his commitment to victory and his coolness stand as a beacon to this great young side.

O'Connor's poor header was his only error. The player dispossessed by Ward was error two and Moffitt was too easily turned by Phillips for the goal.

Phillips used an inside dummy to turn the gifted young man and then slotted home the equaliser, bringing the APIA fans to their feet.

At this time it looked like APIA might go on with the job they have been doing all year.

But their final pass, shot or movement on the ball were too indecisive for champions.

It was 18-year-old replacement Zoran Ilic who produced the piece of skill that counted.

His cross had timing, precision and that tantalising bend that stops an interception by the keeper and puts the odds in favour of the attacker.

Striker Graeme Fletcher was well positioned and was happy to be on the end of that one. It was the kind of goal that puts so many young men in a position reserved for the very few — the place where all players want to be — the grand final.

YOUNG ROOS ON SBS TV

THE Australia-Chile World Youth Cup tie will be shown on SBS TV at 12 noon on Sunday, Eastern Daylight Saving Time (11.30am) in South Australia.

MUD



APIA's ROD BROWN has his eyes fixed firmly on the ball

JOHN DOYLE says Marconi—Sydney Croatia produce. . .

A THRILLER TO REMEMBER

MARCONI withstood 120 minutes of torrid Soccer to oust Sydney Croatia 3-2 in the minor preliminary semi-final at St George Stadium.

But the extra-time period brought the best from Marconi.

Croatia started in a businesslike manner with a plan for close marking, so different to their previous loss to Marconi.

Their intensity in defence showed up the inability of the Marconi players to find space under man-to-man marking.

This was a winning tactic by Croatia. Their commitment led to a controlled, flowing, short-passing game.

They had a lot of time in possession of the ball, and created many short options with good running.

This allowed Robbie Slater to use his knowledge of creating space as he and Croatia were super in the early stages.

Slater received in the midfield and covered much ground before laying the ball off to his

support in the form of Mark Jones.

Jones strode elegantly towards goal, dummied to shoot but passed it across the face of goal to the lurking Shane Clinch.

Clinch's shot flew into the net via a slight deflection to verify Croatia's supremacy at the most important place — the scoreboard.

In this first half Marconi's keeper Bob Catlin kept them in the game.

But it was vital Croatia score more goals while they were in that frame of mind.

Two things made it urgent for Croatia.

One was their obvious deficiency in defence of high crossed balls.

Two was the nagging doubt that this side only produced their best form when they are in front in a game.

Marconi could not build up as well as Croatia. It's

a shame they base their football on speed only and omit the touch of class this talented side could have.

The early game was based on a long ball to prime target man Frank Farina.

Marconi's failure to play out well from the back justifies an early long ball style.

Strategically an excellent player like Craig Mason plays too deep in midfield and does not involve himself enough in play out from the back.

Sometimes Tom McCulloch gets drawn to the same negative style.

Marconi could have benefited from their midfield unit working in a line, where all are committed to forward as well as defensive play.

Still the game was exciting end-to-end stuff and in Marconi's favour was that high crossed ball.

After 32 minutes Gerry Gomez crossed from the right, the keeper parried David Lowe's header to

Ian Gray, whose shot from close in was again saved.

Then Lowe's cross from the left was missed by Farina and seconds before halftime Gomez headed wide off the post.

Marconi persisted with their running-away-from-the-ball tactics in the second half.

Even Lowe, a proven midfield playmaker, tried to outrun defences on the right.

Maxwell down in confidence controlled the ball and loaded off to Gray.

The dipping thunderbolt from Gray was matched by the cat-like agility of Greg Woodhouse in the Croatian goal.

Next it was Zarko Odzakovic's turn for Croatia, a great run down the left, a cross with the outside of the foot and Marconi just escaped again.

Within minutes, Craig Mason's replacement Zlatko Nastevski had missed a chance down the

other end.

Finally however it was the chronic failure by Croatia to cope with the crossed ball that led to Farina's casual chest-down and the crashing equaliser that started the negative thoughts in what had been a fine Croatian performance.

This goal was made more sensational because Marconi were reduced to 10 men with Maxwell's erroneous

send off. Moments later a long run forward by McCulloch resulted in a free-kick for Marconi just outside the box.

Nastevski's low piledriver heralded what appeared to be the winner as the Marconi camp jumped in premature ecstasy. The subsequent concentration lapse brought the simple Graham Arnold equaliser forcing the game into extra-time and returning the

spectators to their seats.

In extra time, Croatia collapsed strategically under pressure. They played four at the front including replacement Manis Lamond.

By doing this they gave away not only the midfield but also the pressure on Marconi's good players. Suddenly Marconi ran riot.

Tony Henderson ventured into midfield and caused havoc his great shot brilliantly saved by Woodhouse.

Finally, McCulloch hit a 25 metre thunderbolt that completely beat Woodhouse.

INDONESIA WANTS TOUR

THE INDONESIAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION has made it clear that they want much closer contact with Australia at national team level.

John Constantine, president of the NSW Soccer Federation, relayed this message to A.S.W. last night after recently returning from a business trip to Indonesia.

Mr Constantine, a Syd-

ney solicitor and also a director of the NSW Government Insurance Office, said: "The Indonesians are very keen to play matches against our National side."

"Their main idea is to have us tour their country."

"Soccer in Indonesia has always been the major sport and they recently won a tournament there between Asiatic countries."

It is more than a strong possibility that the G.I.O. itself would be interested

in sponsoring a Cup competition between Australia and Indonesia.

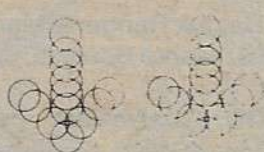
The so called "G.I.O. Cup" would be played on a home and away basis just like the Ampol International Cup between Australia and China.

Provided Australia's domestic and international schedules permit, such a challenge could further enhance Australia's preparations for the World Cup in 1990.

JOHN ECONOMOS

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TURMOIL



To state there is turmoil at Ibrox Park, the home of Glasgow Rangers may be understating the case somewhat.

Firstly there was speculation over the futures of two big-money signings from England, notably international keeper Chris Woods, who cost \$1.2 million from Norwich, and on top of that Charlton Athletic made a \$500,000 bid for striker Mark Falco, who moved from Watford in the close season.

Woods is being pursued by Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur. Both clubs are worried about their own goalkeepers in Gary Walsh and Ray Clemence.

United believe Walsh has great potential but needs to be brought up somewhat slowly and Spurs on the other hand believe Clemence is past his best and they need to update, and the veteran has intimated that this will be his last season of a celebrated and highly successful career.

Rangers quickly slapped a \$1.7 million price on the England number two and despite constant denials from manager Graeme Souness it seems Woods is keen to return south.

So with doubt lingering as to whether the Ibrox side

would hold together, the Glasgow derby with Celtic erupted last weekend.

Intermittent scuffles and fights highlighted a brutal affair and subsequently Butcher was suspended for four weeks after being sent off following his send off.

The England international had in fact not been sent from the field in the one blow, he committed another foul after being shown the yellow card early in the game whereas Woods and McAvennie received their marching orders after fighting in the area. Graham Roberts was also involved and seemed to land a couple of punches

Swedish striker Mats Magnusson has rejected the chance to play in the English First Division by opting for Benfica.

Magnusson was a target for Charlton boss Lennie Lawrence but the Malmo star preferred a £500,000 move to the Portuguese Champions.

Yugoslav-born striker Alex Krstic, who scored 40 goals for Derry City last season, has joined West German Second Division club Saarbrücken.

TERRY Venables is in hot water with the English FA for lending his name to a booze company that is linking with Man Utd, Chelsea, Liverpool and Everton in helping them market their own beer.

Liverpool already sell their own brand of whisky and United sell champagne bottled on the club's behalf.

But the FA, who have been trying to promote a better image of football, are trying to discourage the canned beer promotion.

The rumour doing the rounds at the moment is that PAUL WALSH has bought a flat in London. With Liverpool currently buying a striker every other week, I wonder what this can mean?

Au revoir

The great French midfield is no more following the retirement of Jean Tigana from international football. Tigana, 32, has followed the lead of Michel Platini and Alain Giresse.

GOUGH AT GLASGOW

HEART-broken star Richard Gough has signed for Glasgow Rangers in an amazing \$3 million transfer as a last-ditch effort to save his marriage.

Rangers moved in to break the British record for a defender when they snapped up the flame-haired Scottish international from north London glamour club Tottenham Hotspur.

The staggering fee means Gough has been involved in transfers exceeding \$5 m in the past year.

Gough's personal share of his huge transfer fees will approach \$500,000, but money was not the motivator for Soccer's most poignant transfer in years.

Gough, 26, was simply desperate to try and get his marriage back on the rails after his beautiful Scottish wife Lesley had moved home to Dundee from Hertfordshire with their two-year-old son Michael.

The separation from his family was tearing the teak-tough defender

apart. Lesley had found it impossible to settle south of the border since Gough signed for Spurs from Dundee United for \$1.5m more than a year ago.

He said: "It was hard for Lesley. She was on her own at home while I was out training with the lads. But I became more and more unhappy and when I explained to Spurs that Lesley simply couldn't settle in the south Spurs accepted Rangers' offer."

The Goughs lived in a luxurious \$200,000 house near Spurs' training ground in tranquil Hertfordshire, but Lesley became desperately homesick.

Things came to a head in the spring just as Spurs reached the FA Cup final. They were beaten 3-2 by Coventry in the most thrilling match since the legendary Matthews final of 1953.



FA Cup Final action as Tottenham captain RICHARD GOUGH goes up for a header with team-mates Mitchell Thomas and Chris Waddle in support. In attendance for Coventry is their skipper Brian Kilcline and Keith Houchen (obscured).

Careca shocker

A Brazilian centre forward Careca has been told he will not play for his country again. The 26-year-old World Cup striker, recently signed by Italian Champions Napoli, was shocked by a statement by the vice president of the Brazilian Football Confederation, Nebi Abi Chedid.

He said: "Why should we continue to pick a player who played in the South American Championships that he is not a team man? Careca wants his team-mates to play for him."

Chedid also indicated he was against the idea of calling up players from abroad for the 1990 World Cup, adding: "Just because a footballer is playing abroad and earning lots of money does not mean he should have a guaranteed place in the national side."

Careca blasted back by saying that Brazilian football is being run by people who are unfit for the job. And he has been backed by Zico, who has been threatened with legal action after saying that the soccer authorities have long been responsible for Brazil's failures, adding that they lack dignity and ability.

Brazil flopped in the South American Championships this summer, failing to get past the qualifying stages following a defeat by Chile.

WEST

END



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